

Kuwait says Iraqi list falls short

KUWAIT (R) — Rare treasures taken by the Iraqis from the Kuwait national museum are missing from a list of items supplied by Baghdad to U.N. envoys, museum officials said Tuesday. The Iraqis gave a list of the list of the treasures now lying in the Baghdad museum to Dick Foran, the U.N. envoy supervising the return of Kuwait property. Artifacts missing include items from the priceless Al Sabah collection, the most comprehensive collection of Islamic art in the world. "Quite a few items are missing from the list supplied by the U.N.," said a senior museum official. She would not give details. The Al Sabah collection was put together mainly by Sheikhha Fima Al Sabah, an Islamic art enthusiast who scoured the world in search of the treasures. The collection was on permanent loan to the museum from Sheikhha Hussa and her husband, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Sheikhha Hussa said Kuwait was sending a team of experts to Baghdad to help U.N. officials trace the collection seized by the Iraqi army after its invasion on Aug. 2, 1990.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Iraq: Gorbachev fall in Arabs' interest

CAIRO (R) — An Iraqi minister arriving in Egypt Tuesday said the overthrow of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would redress the balance of world power and work in the Arab's interest. "The change in the Soviet Union was necessary to bring balance to the world ... and is in the Arab's interest," Abdullah Fadhil, Iraqi minister for endowment and religious affairs, told reporters at Cairo airport. Mr. Fadhil arrived to take part in an Islamic conference organized by Egyptian Muslim religious authorities at al Azhar University, due to start Thursday. In contrast to normal diplomatic protocol, no Egyptian government representative met him at the airport. Mr. Fadhil said he would propose motions to the two-day conference condemning the U.N.-imposed economic blockade of Iraq and Israeli oppression of Muslims in Jerusalem.

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Bahrain crown prince meets GCC official

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's crown prince and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, met a senior official from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Tuesday. The agency gave no details of the talks between Sheikh Hamad and Saif Al Maskari, the GCC secretary-general for political affairs. But the meeting coincides with growing tension between Bahrain and its GCC neighbour Qatar, who are locked in a dispute over a cluster of barren but potentially oil-rich Gulf islands. GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara visited Bahrain and Qatar earlier this week. He arrived in Doha Saturday, the same day Qatar accused Bahrain of trying to disrupt Saudi mediation efforts on the issue.

Iran sends messages on Palestine

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has sent messages to heads of state of Oman and three West African states urging support for the Palestinian cause, Tehran Radio reported Tuesday. It said Vice-President Alireza Moayyeri, carrying Mr. Rafsanjani's messages, left Tehran Tuesday for Senegal, Gabon and Niger. The messages for Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id were delivered to him in Muscat by Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh on Monday night, it added. Iran opposes U.S.-sponsored efforts for a Middle East peace conference in October, saying the state of Israel should be dismantled and the land it controls returned to Palestinians.

Iranian oil minister arrives in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (AP) — Iran's oil minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh arrived Tuesday for consultations about the world oil market in advance of September's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The United Arab Emirates is the fourth leg of a Gulf tour by Mr. Aqazadeh, who already has visited Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Oman. He also is delivering messages from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani in each capital. The contents of the messages have not been disclosed. On Monday, Mr. Aqazadeh met with Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman and with his Omani counterpart Sa'id Ben Ahmad Ben Sa'id Al Shamari, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said. The agency said Mr. Aqazadeh expressed Iran's readiness for coordination with oil producers like OPEC, which is not a member of OPEC. His talks come ahead of a Sept. 24 meeting in Geneva of the 13-nation group's ministerial council to discuss production and pricing levels. "The OPEC's current ceiling is 22.2 million barrels per day with members Kuwait and Iraq excluded since the Gulf crisis."

Stasi minister 'incapable of standing trial'

BERLIN (AP) — The former head of East Germany's dreaded secret police, Erich Mielke, is suffering from depression and is incapable of standing trial, the German news agency ADN reported Tuesday. Mr. Mielke, 84, is also suffering from several age-related ailments, according to ADN, which quoted a report by two court-appointed psychiatrists. The report was completed after three weeks of observing Mr. Mielke in a Berlin psychiatric clinic, ADN said. Mr. Mielke headed East Germany's huge state security apparatus during the Communist regime. He faces many charges, including complicity in the death of 200 people killed while trying to escape to the West, tapping telephones and harboring leftist extremists. The East German secret police, known as the Stasi, kept the former Communist rulers in power through a network of surveillance and intimidation. Mr. Mielke was first arrested on Dec. 7, 1989, but the reformist Communist government released him after contending he was too infirm to face prosecution.

Tension on high pitch in Moscow

Yeltsin vows indefinite challenge to hardliners; military moves tanks, imposes curfew in capital

THE COMMUNIST hardliners who overthrew Mikhail Gorbachev sent tanks rolling Tuesday near the Russian parliament housing Boris Yeltsin, who has spearheaded anti-coup demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of people.

The military commandant of Moscow, appointed after the overthrow of Mr. Gorbachev, declared a curfew in the Soviet capital from 11 p.m. on Tuesday until 5 a.m. on Wednesday.

General Nikolai Kalinin said on Soviet television the curfew, ordered under a state of emergency declared by the ruling hardline emergency committee, was intended to "prevent escalation of illegal activities."

Tanks formed columns near the parliament building, where Mr. Yeltsin has been since Monday's coup. The Russian president told British Prime Minister John Major by telephone that the tanks were moving and that he "believed he had not very much time left."

Mr. Major told reporters in London that Mr. Yeltsin expressed concern about the safety of his supporters ringing the building.

It could not be determined where the tanks were headed, but a clandestine radio station inside the building, Moscow Echo, said the tanks rolled to within one and a half kilometres of the building and that an assault was feared imminent.

The tank column was seen by an Associated Press photographer at the central airport, about four kilometres from the building.

Several tanks were seen travelling from the airport towards the Russian parliament building, along a major street, but turned off before reaching the building, according to a producer



Demonstrators stop a tank column in a Moscow street

at the nearby NBC news office.

Streets around the parliament building were blocked off.

Demonstrators — who defied a ban by the new government and gathered by the tens of thousands around the building — were tearing up paving stones from a plaza near the building and cracking pieces from its marble wall to reinforce the barricades surrounding it.

On the steps of the parliament, a Russian Orthodox priest blessed youngsters who said they were prepared to defend the building, and the demonstrators were being shown how to use firebombs. A dozen ambulances were parked behind the building.

The reported tank movement came hours after Mr. Yeltsin gave a fiery speech denouncing the hardliners, who represent conservative military and KGB forces opposed to Mr. Gorbachev's democratic and economic reforms.

"The junta that has come to power will not stop at anything to keep that power," Mr. Yeltsin told the crowd of about 150,000. "They understand that things have reached the point that if they lose, they will lose not only their armchairs, but they will be seated on court benches."

Even as he spoke, there were indications the hardliners were moving to try to silence Gorbachev allies. A Soviet Foreign Ministry official said Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh had taken "sick" after returning from vacation "but was expected to return to work in a few days."

The coup leaders also claimed that Mr. Gorbachev was ill but few believed it. Mr. Gorbachev has not been heard from since Monday's coup, which came while he was vacationing in the Crimea. Mr. Yeltsin said Mr. Gorbachev had a recent medical examination and was in good health.

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"If we go further down the road of illegality, the people will not forgive us," he said. "Above all in these difficult days the country wants to hear the opinion of Mikhail Gorbachev himself, who must personally confirm his inability to carry out his duties."

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King: No reason for Soviet shift to affect peace process

Combined agency despatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday he saw no reason for the overthrow of Mikhail Gorbachev to affect plans for a Middle East peace conference jointly sponsored by Washington and Moscow.

The King, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said he expected Moscow to remain a close friend following Monday's overthrow of President Gorbachev.

Government sources quoted by Reuters said earlier that the King, who returned earlier Tuesday from talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, would probably meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat later this week.

Palestinian radio said Monday the peace conference would now have to take place under U.N. auspices — a move likely to be opposed by Israel, which sees the United Nations as biased in favour of Arabs.

The King said his talks with President Assad had been very valuable and Jordanian and Syrian positions on the peace process were very close. King Hussein also said Jordan was "closely monitoring" the developments in the Soviet Union.

"The Soviet Union is a superpower country and a friendly nation and Jordan is closely monitoring events there," King Hussein said.

"We hope that the Soviet Union will remain our friend and we wish that it will overcome the difficulties which it is undergoing now," said the King.

"I do not see how the latest events in the Soviet Union will affect the Middle East peace process, but I am not in a position to comment on this issue right now," the King said.

Asked whether any new developments or proposals on the peace process in the Middle East came up as a result of his meetings with President Assad, the King said: "We on the Arab side will do our utmost to make the world understand that we support just, honourable and durable peace which addresses both the Israeli-Palestinian and the Arab-Israeli dimensions."

Jordan has offered to form a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the peace talks to help bypass Israel's refusal to deal with the PLO.

But wide differences remain between Israel and the Palestinians over where Palestinian delegates would come from and who would select them.

Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki told Petra late Monday that Amman was eager to see Moscow assume its pivotal role as a major world power.

"These developments... could influence the world's balance of power which recently faced imbalances that allowed one power to impose its hegemony," he said.

Egypt Tuesday urged the Soviet Union to continue its leading role in Middle East peace efforts despite the ouster of Mr. Gorbachev.

Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the process "must go on regardless of any development."

"The Middle East peace process is

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Kelly hopes new Moscow leaders will respect commitments made by Gorbachev

Bush: Mideast peace efforts will continue despite Soviet events

By Serene Halasa
with agency despatches

AMMAN — U.S. President George Bush said Tuesday that it was too early to say what effect the ouster of President Mikhail Gorbachev will have on the U.S.-Soviet sponsored Middle East peace conference and a senior Bush administration official said Washington was determined to press ahead with the peace process regardless of the changes in the Soviet Union.

President Bush, in a Washington press conference, said while "it was too early to say what will happen to the Middle East peace conference," he will continue to push for peace in the region.

"The whole world wants to see that succeed. I hope that there will be no frustration of that on the part of the Soviet Union, who have heretofore played a very constructive role in all of that," said Mr. Bush.

John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, echoed the president

in a satellite interview. Mr. Kelly, who accompanied Secretary of State James Baker in most of his Middle East peace missions since the Gulf war, said Washington would seek to enhance cooperation between Arabs and Israel irrespective of the change of leadership in the Soviet Union.

"The importance of peace and stability in the Middle East does not depend on the composition of the government of the Soviet Union," Mr. Kelly said in the satellite interview arranged through Wordnet.

"There is already a momentum and buildup in the peace process which we in the U.S. intend to continue to push forward. We look forward for the cooperation of the Arab governments and the government of Israel," he told questioners in Amman, Cairo and Riyadh.

President Bush and President Gorbachev, winding up a summit in Moscow last month, announced that Washington and Moscow would co-sponsor a Middle East peace conference in October. The

ouster of Mr. Gorbachev has cast doubts on the process, analysts say, since Washington will have to reconsider the issue in light of the possibility that Moscow might demand a higher profile than the U.S. is willing to grant it in the proposed gathering.

Mr. Kelly said the United States will continue its efforts to "bring about the actual holding of the peace conference so that a general start can be made on the resolution of the problem in the area."

"The U.S. has been working closely with the Soviet Union government to enhance and to move forward the prospects of peace," he said. "It is too early to know whether the men who have seized power will honour (the pledges) that the Soviet government under President Gorbachev has made."

Asked whether the American government will exert pressure on Israel to accept the land for peace formula, Mr. Kelly said: "We should try to convince Israel that it is in its own best interest and the

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West seeks to reverse Soviet course

Combined agency despatches

WESTERN LEADERS were lining up behind ousted Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday, threatening to suspend aid to Moscow and backing a call by Russian President Boris Yeltsin that he be restored to power.

But others could barely contain their glee at the downfall of a man they saw as having betrayed the Communist cause and sold out to Washington.

The European Community joined nations in suspending Soviet aid programmes, and NATO said military reductions could be slowed or halted if the new Kremlin regime reneges on troop withdrawal promises. The EC was also planning a summit Friday.

After speaking with Russian republic President Yeltsin Tuesday, U.S. President George Bush predicted the coup would isolate the Soviet Union. Mr. Bush also said he told Mr. Yeltsin he supports his resistance to the coup.

In financial markets Tuesday, stocks stabilised on most major exchanges after plunging when Mr. Gorbachev was ousted Monday. The dollar and gold, popular investments in time of crisis, lost some ground.

Czechoslovakia restricted travel by Soviets for fear of a wave of Soviet refugees fleeing the new regime, the official CTK news agency reported.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland called a hasty meeting Tuesday to map out coordinated response to the coup.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd lent their support to a call by Mr. Yeltsin Monday for the "restoration of the constitutionally elected organs of power and the reaffirmation of the post of President Mikhail Gorbachev."

Mr. Hurd saluted the "brave and principled stand" taken by Mr. Yeltsin, who is spearheading resistance to the Communist emergency committee which took power Monday.

British Prime Minister John Major has called on EC states jointly to freeze aid to Moscow.

Britain, like the United States, has already suspended technical economic assistance.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu warned Moscow's new headline leaders that Japan regarded the current Soviet situation as unacceptable and would consider joining its western allies in suspending aid.

Australia suspended a 500 million dollar (\$390 million) line of credit to the Soviet Union Tuesday in protest.

Newspapers in India, a close friend of Moscow, attacked the Soviet takeover with bitterness, sadness and predictions of internal strife.

But others were less sorry to see Mr. Gorbachev go. China's headline rulers indicated business-as-usual with the new leaders in Moscow.

Beijing, its relations still strained with the West because of its 1989 crackdown on a pro-democracy movement, may prefer Soviet generals in charge than

a reformist, Western-oriented president like Mr. Gorbachev, diplomats said.

In North Korea, where Mr. Gorbachev was publicly attacked as a traitor for granting diplomatic recognition to South Korea, newspapers reported the news of Mr. Gorbachev's removal in guarded terms and gave it little prominence.

The isolated state's Stalinist leaders have not so far commented publicly on Mr. Gorbachev's removal.

In Hanoi, a government official said Vietnam was unlikely to mourn Mr. Gorbachev's demise.

"Gorbachev has made many mistakes... he has made too many compromises with the West," the official told Reuters. "He has also made the position and the role of the Soviet Union in the world weaker."

Ambassadors to the NATO defence alliance met Monday in emergency session in Brussels amid fears that the Soviet coup could herald a return to the cold war.

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SOVIET COUP leaders sent a letter to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Tuesday expressing hope that Moscow will develop its relations with all nations, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

That was a sign that the Soviet Union could be seeking a partial return to its role as Iraq's superpower ally, which it played for two decades before the Gulf war.

Moscow sided with the United States in the war.

The letter from Vice-President Gennady Yanayev, named as acting president by the coup leaders, expressed the Soviet Union's readiness to develop its relations with all countries, INA said.

The letter said current difficulties in the Soviet Union were short-lived and its role in protecting and reinforcing international security would be as great as before, the agency reported in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus.

Mr. Yanayev said steps by the new Soviet leadership were aimed at achieving quick stability and creating circumstances for a comprehensive development of the country, INA reported.

It gave no further details in its brief dispatch.

Iraq's press Tuesday welcomed the hardliners' coup in the Soviet Union and looked forward to a resumption of friendship between Moscow and Baghdad.

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Israel says Jews still able to leave Soviet Union

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Kremlin's new hardline Communist rulers show no sign of closing the gates to Jewish emigration that Mikhail Gorbachev threw open, Israeli officials said Tuesday.

Israeli newspaper expressed the hope that more than a million Jews in the Soviet Union would join 300,000 countrymen who have arrived in Israel since 1989 under Mr. Gorbachev's reforms.

They also said they were worried Moscow would restore close relations with Arab states and withdraw its backing for a U.S.-Soviet-sponsored Middle East peace conference in October.

Yossi Ben-Dor, spokesman for the Israeli consulate in Moscow, told Israeli Radio by telephone: "We have no information of Jews being prevented from leaving the Soviet Union as planned."

Soviet immigrants who flew out through Eastern Europe on Monday and Tuesday learned of the takeover on their arrival in Israel. Many were worried about family members left behind. Another 60,000 Jews have documents to leave.

The quasi-governmental Jewish Agency which brings Jews to Israel said it could handle up to 50,000 Jews a month should events prompt them to leave the Soviet Union in a hurry.

The flow reached a monthly peak of 30,000 last year but less than 10,000 had been expected this month.

"Jews applied yesterday to the government passport office and received passports so if it's possible to say, the present trend indicates immigration will increase in the near future," said Baruch Gur, a Jewish Agency official in Moscow.

The moderate daily Maariv urged Israeli leaders to act swiftly to bring Jews out, writing: "Everyday that passes without action endangers their future and the future of Israel."

Israel had expected to renew full diplomatic relations with Moscow ahead of a peace conference aimed at ending 43 years of Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Kremlin broke off ties with the Jewish state over the 1967 war but relations had risen to the consular level under Mr. Gorbachev.

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Key suspect in Gandhi murder kills himself

BANGALORE (AP) — The prime suspect in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi committed suicide Tuesday as police closed in on his hideout in a sleepy south Indian village, authorities said.

The death ended a 90-day manhunt for Sivarasana, a one-eyed Sri Lankan Tamil, who is believed to have masterminded the May 21 suicide bomb attack that killed the former prime minister.

It also appeared to have closed all avenues for further investigation into the assassination. Police have suspected Mr. Gandhi's killing was ordered by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a Sri Lankan separatist militia, but investigators say it will now be difficult to procure conclusive proof.

Sivarasana, 29, shot himself through the temple before police stormed the one-storeyed brick house in the village of Konanakunte, 20 kilometres south of Bangalore, said Police Commissioner R. Ramalingam.

"It is him there is no doubt," the police officer said. "There is the glass eye."

Sivarasana, reported to be the top intelligence officer of the Tamil Tigers, lost his left eye while making explosives in Sri Lanka, investigators say.

Six other people taking refuge in the house committed suicide by swallowing cyanide capsules, Mr. Ramalingam said.

At least four of them were identified as Sri Lankan Tamil separatists and included Subha, a 22-year-old woman accomplice of Sivarasana, the police officer said. The two others had not been identified.

All members of the Tamil Tigers take a vow to commit suicide if they are faced with arrest and carry a cyanide capsule on their person. Scores of militants have committed suicide in India and Sri Lanka.

The news of the suicides came as Mr. Gandhi's widow Sonia and their son and daughter visited a memorial to the former prime minister in New Delhi to observe his 47th birthday. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and members of his cabinet also were present at the brief ceremony.

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Soviet letter to Iraq seen as signal of possible policy shift

Combined agency despatches

SOVIET COUP leaders sent a letter to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Tuesday expressing hope that Moscow will develop its relations with all nations, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Israeli police to probe Palestinians who went to London meetings

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police will investigate whether three Palestinian peace negotiators from the Israeli-occupied territories should be prosecuted for meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials in London, Israel Television reported.

Concern grew, meanwhile, over whether the Middle East peace process will continue following Monday's overthrow of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Palestinian leaders Faisal Al Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi and Zakaria Agba met PLO officials in London Saturday and Sunday to discuss the U.S. plan for a peace conference in October.

The three previously met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on his last peace mission.

Israel bans contact with the PLO, Jewish peace activist Abie Nathan was jailed last year for meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The television said the decision to investigate the three was made at a Monday meeting between Israel's Attorney General Yosef Harish and Police Commissioner Ya'acov Turner after a complaint

was filed by hawkish parliamentarian Eliakim Haetzni.

It said the police had been instructed to use the utmost delicacy and not to arrest the three on their return to Israel. The investigation will centre on whether the London meetings constituted contacts with a foreign agent.

Israel Foreign Minister David Levy said Monday the Middle East had to persevere with the peace process despite the developments in the Soviet Union. "What we have done in this area with great effort demands responsibility, first and foremost, from the states in the region, the Arab states and Israel," Mr. Levy told reporters.

But in a broadcast from Algiers the Voice of Palestine said Mr. Gorbachev's removal meant there would be no superpower-sponsored Middle East peace conference.

Israel has agreed to attend the conference provided Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem, and the PLO, are barred.

In London the three Palestinians met PLO Representative to London Afif Safieh, U.N. delegate Nasser Kudwa and other prominent Palestinian exiles.

Thatcher Aide: U.S. overruled British wish to continue Gulf war

LONDON (AP) — Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's private secretary during the Gulf war said in a TV documentary shown Monday night that Britain wanted to continue hostilities against Iraq but was forced into a ceasefire by the United States.

Sir Charles Powell said in the programme that the British did not believe the loop of allied forces had been completely closed around Iraqi forces in and around Kuwait and wanted to go on fighting, "but the American view prevailed."

British news reports said it was the first time that a member of the British war cabinet had suggested that the British wanted to fight on and were overruled by President George Bush.

Mr. Powell was Mrs. Thatcher's personal foreign affairs adviser at the time and was a member of the British war cabinet. Mrs. Thatcher was replaced as prime minister by John Major last Nov. 28.

Mr. Powell made the remarks in a filmed interview shown in the last of three Gulf war documentaries made by the British Broadcasting Corporation's weekly news and current affairs program "Panorama."

The allied war to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait following their invasion of the emirate on Aug. 2 last year ended on Feb. 28.

On Feb. 28, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was in the White House with Mr. Bush, U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Cheney, and General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, when the ceasefire was discussed. Mr. Hurd has always denied there was any disagreement between the allies.

Charles Powell said in the programme: "My clear recollection is that the advice which the American commanders and American military leaders gave at that time was that there really were no targets left to shoot at. (They indicated that) it was not in the tradition of the American army to shoot people in the back as they were running away from their tanks."

"Therefore it would not be possible to go on with the fighting beyond midnight. We (the British), I think, had some misgivings about that because we did not believe that the loop had been completely closed around the Iraqi forces in and around Kuwait."

"We wanted to be sure that was done because we wanted to inflict the greatest possible defeat on (President) Saddam Hussein."

Algeria fundamentalists to boycott election talks

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalists whose campaign for an Islamic state plunged Algeria into violence in June are to boycott talks between political parties and the government to prepare the first multi-party general elections.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), whose leaders are detained on charges of armed conspiracy against the state, said it would not attend talks due to start on Thursday and urged the authorities to meet their conditions for a return to dialogue.

In a statement, released by the FIS policy-making Majlis Al Shoura late Monday night, it said it "doubted the good intentions of the regime."

The elections were to be held on June 27 but were postponed after clashes between security forces and FIS militants demanding an Islamic state.

President Chadli Benjedid imposed a state of siege and changed his government which, under Prime Minister Sidahmad Ghazali, is trying to hold the elections before the end of the year. Officials said 55 people died in the violence.

FIS conditions for talking to the government were: The immediate lifting of the state of siege, the release of its detained leaders, acceptance back at their jobs of workers who took part in an FIS strike that turned into demonstrations and compensation for victims.

Military authorities meanwhile banned two FIS newspapers. The military, which is enforcing the state of emergency declared in June, accused the newspapers, El Mouquind and El Forqane, of "calling for civil disobedience and violence, and inciting crimes and misdemeanors against public order and state security."

The military authorities did not cite any particular article appearing in the newspapers as prompting the ban.

The state of emergency set up military tribunals and gave security forces special powers of search and detention.

An official communiqué warned that anyone writing, editing, printing, reproducing or selling the newspapers faces imprisonment or confiscation of property.

The action against the newspapers came a day after Mr. Ghazali announced that the government would release 329 fundamentalists held since violent protests interrupted election campaigning and prompted the state of emergency declared on June 5.

The government said about 800 others who remain in custody will be tried in connection with the unrest that had pressed for election reform.

But there remained no confirmation Monday that any of the prisoners due to be released had actually been freed. Those to be released did not include jailed leaders of the fundamentalist movement.

Mr. Ghazali announced the releases as he prepared for Thursday's talks about rules and a new date for the postponed elections.

It was not clear whether the banning of the newspapers represented an attempt by the military to undercut Mr. Ghazali's efforts to woo the fundamentalists to the negotiating table.

Mr. Benjedid has agreed to set a new date for the elections depending on the outcome of the talks this week.

The government agreed earlier to hold legislative elections in November and a presidential election sometime after that, key demands of the fundamentalists.

They would be the country's first multi-party legislative voting since it won its independence from France in 1962.

Saudi crash originated in plane's tyres

OTTAWA (R) — Tire failure before takeoff caused the crash of a National DC-8 over Saudi Arabia last month that killed all 247 Nigerian passengers and 14 Canadian crew on board, Canadian investigators said Monday.

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada said it is investigating inspection procedures that the Montreal-based carrier conducted on the tires of its fleet before the July 11 crash after takeoff from Jeddah.

Debris from the tires and wheels, and marks on the runway, confirm that two tires failed before the aircraft had proceeded more than 150 metres down the runway, and one of them caught fire, said the board.

"The problem originated with the tires failing," investigator Ron Coleman said in an interview. "It appears to be the initiating event. Had the tires not failed the flight would probably have been uneventful."

"We don't know why it failed," National confirmed Friday it suffered a series of wheel-related trouble on DC-8s this year and had not completed an inspection on the jets before the Saudi crash.

A federal transportation official said the government ordered the carrier to inspect all wheel assemblies in its fleet of DC-8s following incidents in which wheels were cracking and even breaking apart.

National said it initiated a voluntary inspection of wheel assemblies on the seven DC-8s it was operating.

The inspection programme was completed on July 16, just five days after the DC-8, chartered by a Nigerian company to fly pilgrims home from Jeddah, crashed minutes after takeoff.

Neither National nor federal safety officials were able to say whether the wheel rims on the downed aircraft had been inspected before it crashed.

"We'll be looking at the inspection, why it was called, who called it, what was done, what procedures were used, what techniques for testing were done and what the results were," Mr. Coleman said.

Investigators are planning to transport debris back to Canada to determine the cause of the tire failure.

Saudis investigating the crash had said they believed a re-treaded tire disintegrated during takeoff but Canadian investigators said the tire was at the crash site.

Pakistan hopes Soviet Afghan policy will stay

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan has privately voiced hopes the rise of hardliners in Moscow after the overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev will not be reflected in a tougher Soviet policy on Afghanistan.

Officially, the government said Monday's events were an internal affair of the Soviet Union.

However, intense efforts began to analyse the likely fallout on Afghanistan.

The Pakistan government was converted only recently to the idea of a political settlement of the 13-year-old Afghan war, and this month welcomed Soviet envoy Nikolai Kozmyev to Islamabad for talks on ways to clear the stalemate.

"Things appeared to be moving in the right direction and we do not know how the changes are going to affect that," a senior Foreign Ministry source said Tuesday.

"We would hope that we would continue to have a very positive response from the Soviet Union."

One Soviet diplomat forecast the new Soviet leadership would be far too busy handling problems at home even to think about Afghanistan, and the issue would be pushed to one side.

Though the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan in February 1989, Moscow continues to exert enormous influence as Kabul's main trading partner and supplier of weapons, fuel and food.

Afghan guerrillas based in Pakistan said they feared the

Moscow hardliners could increase support for their Afghan proxy President Najibullah and pour more weapons.

Radical Mujahadeen leader Younus Khalis said the guerrilla leadership could benefit because the United States might lose again at its waning support for the guerrillas.

The Najibullah government announced on state media that Mr. Gorbachev had been replaced but gave no official reaction.

Normally talkative officials were reluctant to comment. However, they denied reports from diplomats that a high-ranking Soviet military delegation had arrived in Kabul.

Earlier this month, Asian diplomats said there was tension between Kabul and Moscow over Soviet pressure for Mr. Najibullah to slacken his hold on power to help United Nations efforts to broker a peace.

"This can only be good news," Najibullah, in the short term, at least, said an envoy who said he expected him to consolidate his position.

Pakistan, the Soviet Union, the United States and most guerrilla groups have backed U.N. efforts to reach agreement on a transitional government in Afghanistan that would hold elections.

Mujahadeen guerrillas have far refused to sit down at a negotiating table with Mr. Najibullah or his ruling Watan party, despite secret contacts.

5 Turkish soldiers, 1 Kurdish rebel killed

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Five Turkish soldiers and a Kurdish guerrilla were killed in a clash near the southeastern border town of Silopi, an official said Tuesday.

The official, who refused to be named, said Kurdish rebels fired rockets and three grenades at a gendarme post in Gornulu village, 20 kilometres north of Silopi, Monday night.

A U.S.-led rapid reaction force, ostensibly designed to deter Iraqi troops from attacks on Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq, is based just south of Silopi.

Anatolian news agency said security forces were searching for Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) rebels after the Silopi clash.

The latest rebel attack seemed to show that this month's Turkish cross-border raids on PKK bases in northern Iraq had failed to cripple the group's ability to strike.

An army spokesman said Monday troops who crossed into Iraq on Aug. 5 had completed mopping-up operations. Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani said in Istanbul last week that his Peshmerga forces would prevent other groups operating in northern Iraq once Turkish troops pulled out.

Some troops were withdrawing, but others continuing to patrol Iraqi territory in an area 10 kilometres wide and 13 kilometres deep, Turkish Brigadier General Hursit Tolon said.

Ankara has said troops killed about 50 PKK guerrillas and seized hundreds of rifles and rocket launchers in the incursion.

Military officials said troops were continuing a search for seven Turkish soldiers captured two weeks ago by PKK rebels who attacked a border gendarme post, killing nine soldiers.

The Interior Ministry said Monday that 15 soldiers, two policemen and four village guards had died in clashes related to last week's seventh anniversary of the start of the PKK's guerrilla campaign. Fourteen rebels were killed.

A spokesman said 326 PKK suspects had been detained since Thursday in a crackdown in northern and western cities, outside the group's main strongholds in the southeast.

One PKK guerrilla was reported killed Saturday while trying to infiltrate Turkey from Syria.

More than 3,300 people have been killed since Aug. 15, 1984, when the PKK launched its guerrilla war in the southeast for independence for Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds.

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Israel shocked at Ethiopian denial of Falasha deal

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli officials were taken by surprise on Monday by Ethiopia's denial it had agreed to let remaining Ethiopian Jews be brought to the Jewish state.

"The money and understanding was initially that we would be taking out all the Jews, I don't understand this," Yehuda Weinraub, a spokesman for the Jewish Agency which brings Jews to Israel, told Reuters.

Israel's foreign ministry said Friday Ethiopia had agreed to allow the emigration of 2,600 black Jews, known as Falashas, left behind in Israel's May airlift of 14,000.

On Monday Ethiopia denied there was such an agreement.

"The transitional government of Ethiopia categorically states that no such agreement exists and in fact has never even discussed such an issue with the government of Israel or with any other party," the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry said.

Israeli foreign ministry officials said they knew nothing of Ethiopia's denial and could not make any comment.

A Jewish Agency official, speaking before the report from Addis Ababa, had warned that the foreign ministry announcement might jeopardise the migration of the remaining Falashas.

"If there is even the smallest chance that publicity will damage the operation, why publicise it?" Micha Feldman, head of the Jewish Agency's Ethiopia desk, asked the Jerusalem Post.

Mr. Feldman could not be reached for comment. The Jewish Agency said he was on his way to Ethiopia.

Iran decision to end hostage saga is irreversible — source

BEIRUT (R) — Iran's decision to use its influence over pro-Iranian kidnap groups to end the nightmare of the Western hostages in Lebanon is irreversible, a senior Muslim leader said Tuesday.

"The changes in the Soviet leadership will have their repercussions worldwide and the Middle East in particular, but they will not affect the hostage release process," the Shi'ite leader, who requested anonymity, told Reuters.

"The Iranian decision to close the hostage file is final and irreversible. The hostage card is a spent card no matter what changes take place in the world or the region," he said.

Speculation that U.N.-led efforts to arrange an international

prisoner exchange including the nine or 10 remaining Western captives in Lebanon were moving forward was heightened by meetings in the Iranian capital at the weekend.

The head of Lebanon's Hizbollah, an Iranian-backed group close to kidnapers of Westerners, held another round of talks with Iran's top leaders Sunday, the day after a Swiss envoy believed sent by the United Nations chief was in Tehran.

Diplomats say Iran has helped bring about a breakthrough in the hostage saga by playing down its long-standing preconditions and counting on concessions from the West after the rest of the hostages, including five Americans and two Britons, are freed.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier

Perez de Cuellar is trying to broker an exchange of the Westerners, some held for six years, for nearly 400 Arabs captured from Lebanon and imprisoned without trial by Israel or its South Lebanon militia allies.

He said last week after talks with Israeli negotiators he was "very, very hopeful" of a deal.

Islamic Jihad, the Lebanese kidnappers of several Westerners, proposed a swap in a letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar delivered by freed British hostage John McCarthy on Aug. 12, the same day that another group released American Edward Tracy.

Israel says it is willing to deal provided it gets proof of the fate of seven servicemen missing for up to nine years in Lebanon and

the return of those still alive. The Muslim source said efforts to gather the requested information were continuing but have run into some difficulty.

"We are having difficulty in locating the Israeli pilot (navigator Ron Arad). We don't know where he is," he said. "We have contacted the various factions, even the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and everyone says we don't have him."

Asked about the other six Israelis, the leader said: "The fate of the rest is not a problem." He would not elaborate.

Sergeant Arad was captured by the pro-Syrian Shi'ite militia Amal after his plane was shot down in South Lebanon in 1986.

The chief of the Amal unit holding him later defected to

Hizbollah, the dominant Shi'ite underground movement, and Sgt. Arad was believed to have been handed over to the fundamentalists.

Hizbollah says it holds only two Israeli soldiers, captured after a firefight in South Lebanon in 1986. It does not say whether they are dead or alive and makes no mention of Sgt. Arad.

Germany Monday denied it had a "gentleman's agreement" with Iran to release two Arab prisoners after two German hostages were freed, to facilitate a wider prisoner exchange.

"There is no such agreement," Bonn Foreign Ministry spokesman Hanns Schumacher told Reuters.

A Muslim fundamentalist source said in Beirut Sunday that

Iran was determined to remove all obstacles blocking the release of the Western hostages, including that posed by the two Hamadi brothers, imprisoned in Germany.

The source told Reuters that Iran had agreed to persuade the Hamadi family, to free hostages Heinrich Struberg and Thomas Kempner as part of the overall hostage deal.

None of the statements made by Iranian officials last week about the intense diplomatic efforts to clinch a hostage deal raised Tehran's usual main demand — that Washington first unblock billions of dollars in Iranian assets.

Iran's change of tack seems to indicate it feels it can gain more in its ties with the West by helping to free the hostages.

Fifth fire in Tehran destroys workshop

NICOSIA (AP) — Fire destroyed a sweater-knitting workshop in Tehran's bazaar in the fifth such blaze in three weeks, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Tuesday. The agency said the fire gutted the workshop and the heat smashed windows of nearby stores. It said no one was killed but did not say if there were injuries. Firefighters rushed to the scene within minutes and put out the blaze within an hour, it said. An unidentified law-enforcement official told the agency that an electrical short-circuit caused the blaze, which broke out at 9:20 p.m. Monday (1650 GMT). Iranian newspapers have said arson was suspected in at least three of the blazes and the remaining bazaar. Some shopkeepers have said the blazes are politically motivated. The bazaar, mostly from wealthy conservative families devoted to Islam, financed the 1979 revolution and comprise one of the factions jockeying for power inside the government. The powerful bazaar merchants are generally blamed for driving up already staggering inflation by hoarding goods and price-gouging.

Saudis deny flooding Iraq with forged money

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has denied Iraqi accusations that it was taking part in a conspiracy to flood Iraq with forged money. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA), received in Cyprus, quoted an official Saudi source as saying Iraq was printing fake money to buy the loyalty of its people. Iraq's Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah reported on Sunday that Iraq and Turkey were collecting 25 dinar Iraqi banknotes issued before the invasion of Kuwait. The money was being sent to Saudi Arabia to be destroyed and replaced with counterfeit currency, the paper charged. The Iraqi regime itself resorted to inundate Iraq's economy with locally printed fake notes to buy with them the support of certain tribes and individuals in a desperate attempt to remain in power.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Variety programme
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	A Kind of Living
21:10	5th Route of the Sea
21:20	News in English
22:30	Le Roi Mystery
PRAYER TIMES	
04:35	Fajr
05:58	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:39	Dhuhr
16:18	'Asr
19:28	Maghrib
20:43	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweteth, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 752561	
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 717551	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 649332	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	Min./max. temp. 17 / 28
Aqaba	23 / 36
Deir	16 / 22
Jordan Valley	23 / 35

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMBULANCE	
Dr. Abdul Majid Sharr	791405
Dr. Riaz Abu Zein	(—)
Dr. Mohammad Saymeh	606360
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih	657909
Fina Pharmacy	661912
Fardous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairoudi pharmacy	626672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeissai pharmacy	637660
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blind Bank	71121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	806390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	638280
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	661176
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Khalifah pharmacy	985417

HOSPITALS	
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-33200

Trial of armed dissidents will be open to the public

TV confessions not to be aired

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will not televise confessions of members of Mohammad's Army, the armed dissident group that was arrested on charges of threatening national security last month, but their trial by the newly-formed State Security Court will be open to the public.

According to government officials, the idea of televising some confessions was considered "but was later dropped because it would have been in contravention of the spirit of the new democracy."

"These people have been accused but they have not yet been convicted. Whether they are guilty or not should be determined by the court and not by the public on television," said one of the officials, who requested anonymity.

Members of the group were reported to have given full confessions about their alleged crimes, which reportedly included planting bombs in cars and resulted in severe injuries to at least two people, and plotting to destabilise the country's security.

Some of the accused confessed to receiving training in Afghanistan and Pakistan and others revealed that they were receiving funding from foreign parties, the official said.

However, the main funding came from donations in mosques collected under the guise of support campaigns for the occupied territories, the official added.

Others confessed to training other members of the group on how to make explosives and use guns and AK-47 automatic weapons.

The officials said that the initial idea for televising the confessions came after several mosque preachers and de-

students from Amman and tribal nursing schools to be excluded from examinations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health has decided to exclude students from the Amman and tribal nursing schools from sitting comprehensive examinations at the end of their four-year training courses, according to a government official.

The decision was taken in response to students' requests and windows followed a thorough study of the schools' training courses and the results of the previous comprehensive examinations, said a Ministry of Health official.

Students at the two nursing schools had refused to take the examinations along with students at other community colleges in Amman because they said that the schools' courses last four years, like university courses and unlike community college courses, lack last two years.

The two nursing schools award diplomas in nursing midway following four years of training.

His announcement, the Minister said a series of meetings were held at the Ministry of Health involving officials from

new textbooks to be introduced for 1991-92 scholastic year

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education is introducing new textbooks for schools in Jordan with the start of the new 1991-92 scholastic year and is using 13,000 men and women to edit the textbooks.

According to the new textbooks, according to an announcement by Khaleel Al Sheikh, director of education and training at the Ministry of Education.

13,000 teachers will instruct students in the first, fifth and ninth grades, Mr. Sheikh said in a statement on the eve of the start of the new scholastic year.

Mr. Sheikh said that the ministry is also training 1,200 school principals to help implement the new textbooks.

In a process of changing textbooks and opening teachers on to use them, which will take 10 years in implementation of the National Educational Council's resolutions, Mr. Sheikh said.

He said that the institute, which opened in 1988, has already offered training to 4,000 teachers, 600 of whom have already graduated.

Political groups struggle to become formal parties

This is the first article of a four-part series on the establishment of political parties in Jordan as part of its ongoing democratisation movement. The articles will seek to illuminate organisational, financial and other problems confronting these efforts.

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As Jordanian political groups prepare to formally launch parties whose members would seek election to the country's Parliament, some are struggling to define their platforms as others attempt to disengage from past political associations.

Years of underground work and organisational and financial dependence on parties in Syria, Iraq, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have left their marks on the orientation of most of Jordan's political activists.

But as stipulated in Jordan's National Charter, total political and financial independence will be a main pre-requisite for the registration and legalisation of any political party in the Kingdom.

While this poses no problem for some, such as the Al Ahd Party headed by former Brigadier General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, others are evidently struggling with the new set of rules.

In a recent public dialogue held at the Abdul Hameed Shooman Foundation between nominal leaders of four parties operating in Jordan, there remained an uncertainty to what degree some of the parties would be independent.

The Baath Arab Socialist Party, headed by Ahmad Najawi in Jordan, has had close historic links with the Baath Party in Iraq. The independence of such parties has yet to be established and some political observers believe that there may be clauses in the charter which would prevent such organisations from registering as Jordanian parties.

"We don't intend to allow such parties to function if they don't reform to become local parties and break their leadership links with other parties outside of Jordan," said a senior government official recently.

Parties that want to be pan-Arab in character, orientation and financial backing will not be banned in Jordan, said the official. But they will not be able to register as Jordanian parties nor will their leaders be able to run for local offices.

While some parties will thus automatically exclude themselves for participation in the internal political arena, others have shown that they are able to change and adapt themselves to the new status quo in Jordan.

The Jordanian Peoples Democratic Party (JPDP), headed by Tayseer Al Zibri, is one example of a party that has adjusted itself to the realities of the new Jordan. Founded as a result of the decision by Jordan to cut all legal and administrative ties with the occupied territories in 1988, most members of the JPDP were formerly activists with the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

During the two hour dialogue at the Shooman Foundation, Mr. Zibri said that the JPDP had different domestic priorities than the party to

groom and their relatives because such an event fosters cohesion among the members of the community, said the statement. But, it continued, firings are harmful and could cost people their lives and is totally forbidden by religion.

In accordance with the teachings of Islam, anything that disturbs the public order in the streets and elsewhere is also forbidden and, therefore, blowing car horns during weddings violates the rules of sharia (Islamic rule), the statement said.

A wedding is a private matter which should not be used to obstruct traffic or cause congestion on roads.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Saturday issued a statement urging Muslims to refrain from firing during weddings and said that such improper and bad practices often transform rejoicing into tragedies.

Islam considers a wedding a joyful occasion for the bride and the groom and their relatives because such an event fosters cohesion among the members of the community, said the statement. But, it continued, firings are harmful and could cost people their lives and is totally forbidden by religion.

In accordance with the teachings of Islam, anything that disturbs the public order in the streets and elsewhere is also forbidden and, therefore, blowing car horns during weddings violates the rules of sharia (Islamic rule), the statement said.

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AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday stressed the importance of the international community's response to Jordan's appeal for aid to the returnees.

Addressing a special committee entrusted with ensuring the welfare of the evacuees, Prince Hassan said that any appeal which is not based on a scientific background falls short of achieving the desired results.

The Crown Prince, who chaired the Returnees Welfare Committee, also said that the returnees problem not only needs an immediate response but also required continued attention that takes into consideration the large number of returnees and the high cost of urban services needed to meet their needs.

"What is required right away is a carefully-studied scientific approach to deal with issues of concern to citizens and to communicate with the world on such issues," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan criticized the double standards followed in paying a compensation, saying that the reparations fund in Geneva has allocated \$2,500 per returnee to Jordan while it allocated \$50,000 to each Soviet Jewish immigrant.

Prince Hassan recalled Jordan's proposal for setting up a compensation fund for labour force exporting countries and noted the Kingdom's participation in the 1980s to form an international committee specialising in humanitarian issues.

The Prince said Jordan should follow a scientific approach to demonstrate that there was a trans-regional and structural problem in this region which needs to be addressed by international bodies and agencies.

He stressed that Jordan can highlight such a problem and put this challenge in an objective context.

Such an approach is designed to cover the costs of social services during the next decade, including social, educational and health services.

The Crown Prince stressed the need for concentrating on the human dimension in dealing with the country's problems. He also called for utilising the study prepared by the National Centre for Educational Research and Development on the characteristics and situation of the returnees.

Prince Hassan calls for 'scientific' approach in handling returnees problem

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AMMAN (J.T.) — The four government run universities are expected to increase by 10 per cent the number of students enrolling for the new academic year starting in October in implementation of a decision taken Monday by the Council of Higher Education (CHE).

The council decided that the four universities — the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Muta University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology — should increase the number of students they accept by 10 per cent in order to allow for a larger margin of school graduates to enroll according to the council's statement as quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Earlier this month, the four universities announced that they will accept a total of 10,375 undergraduate and 2,479 post graduate students in the coming 1991-1992 academic year.

Columnists as well as other articles in the local press have been demanding that university education be offered to the largest number of students who graduate from schools.

Minister of Higher Education Mohammad Hamouri said that those with a 65 per cent average

in the tawjihi examination and above can be accepted while the rest of the successful tawjihi students can enroll at the private universities and community colleges in Jordan.

He said that usually nearly 70 per cent of the total number of this year's secondary school graduates would be accepted in the four universities. But because of the Council of Higher Education's decision, an additional number will be admitted.

According to the minister, 700 expatriate students returning to Jordan will also be among those to be accepted in the four universities. The CHE's announcement Monday also said that it has given its approval in principle for the inclusion of new specialisations at Jordanian private universities.

Furthermore, the council announced the appointments of Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad, a former Minister of Higher Education, as president of the Al Ahliya University.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with various government and private sector officials to discuss Jordan's handling of returnees problem (Petra photo)

Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul, who also attended the meeting, said that Jordan was facing a unique problem which is characterised by its special features and the circumstances surrounding it.

He praised His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan's initiative to care for the returnees and to set up a special committee to ensure their welfare. He said the committee would cooperate with all parties concerned to provide the necessary help to the returnees.

The committee's chairman, Salameh Hammad, who is also the Ministry of Interior's secretary general, presented a briefing on the committee's working plan.

He said that the committee had worked out a two-phase plan. The first phase focuses on providing immediate care for the returnees while the second will look into individual aspects of the returnees problem. He said the committee sent special teams to the border posts to collect and pass information on the returnees and their needs to the committee.

President of the National Centre for Educational Research and Development Victor Balleh briefed the conferees on the study the centre had prepared about the social and economic features of Jordanian returnees. The study was the outcome of field visits to

a large number of returnees. Jordan Bar Association and the Professional Associations Board President Walid Abdul Hadi voiced the association's readiness to provide the necessary support for the returnees. He called on the mass media and mosque preachers to focus attention on the problem of the returnees.

Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Director General Inaam Al Mufri praised the efforts made by King Hussein and Prince Hassan to support the returnees. She pledged the NHF support for the returnees and said the Foundation would carry out four projects aimed at generating income and jobs for returnees. She also called for drawing up a technical plan featuring the kind of assistance the private sector can provide to avoid duplication of work and services to returnees.

Head of the Jordanian community in Kuwait, Abdullah Al Qaq, who also attended the meeting, expressed appreciation to King Hussein and Prince Hassan for the special care and attention they gave to the returnees.

Also taking part in the meeting were a number of representatives of private sector institutions, charitable and voluntary societies.

In a statement after the meeting to Jordan News Agency, Petra, Prince Hassan said he was in

constant contact with international bodies wishing to know the economic costs to Jordan of the return of hundreds of thousands of returnees.

On the legality of expelling Jordanians from the Gulf, Prince Hassan said Jordan took the lead in the mid-1970s in proposing the establishment of a compensation fund for labour exporting countries, but the international community did not respond to that proposal. He said that it could have been easy to contain the crisis had there been agreements between the labour force exporting and importing countries.

He noted that the issue is two pronged: the first a common Arab one based on economic agreements and the second is an individual one requiring thorough study to identify the cases which suffered legally or illegally.

Asked about his assessment of the Returnees Welfare Committee's workplan, Prince Hassan said the first features of the plan are clear in terms of the support and relief needed. However, he added, what is urgently needed is to quickly reach the returnees.

He pointed out that some of the returnees have the investment capacity, in addition to the administrative capacities, which should be utilised in supporting Jordan's developmental efforts.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four government run universities are expected to increase by 10 per cent the number of students enrolling for the new academic year starting in October in implementation of a decision taken Monday by the Council of Higher Education (CHE).

The council decided that the four universities — the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Muta University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology — should increase the number of students they accept by 10 per cent in order to allow for a larger margin of school graduates to enroll according to the council's statement as quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Earlier this month, the four universities announced that they will accept a total of 10,375 undergraduate and 2,479 post graduate students in the coming 1991-1992 academic year.

Columnists as well as other articles in the local press have been demanding that university education be offered to the largest number of students who graduate from schools.

Minister of Higher Education Mohammad Hamouri said that those with a 65 per cent average

in the tawjihi examination and above can be accepted while the rest of the successful tawjihi students can enroll at the private universities and community colleges in Jordan.

He said that usually nearly 70 per cent of the total number of this year's secondary school graduates would be accepted in the four universities. But because of the Council of Higher Education's decision, an additional number will be admitted.

According to the minister, 700 expatriate students returning to Jordan will also be among those to be accepted in the four universities. The CHE's announcement Monday also said that it has given its approval in principle for the inclusion of new specialisations at Jordanian private universities.

Furthermore, the council announced the appointments of Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad, a former Minister of Higher Education, as president of the Al Ahliya University.

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MasterCard INTERNATIONAL

Following the decision of the banking authorities in Luxembourg, the Cayman Islands and the United Kingdom to secure control of the assets of banks in the Bank of Credit and Commerce Group (BCCI), MasterCard International wishes to announce that it has terminated the appointment of (BCCI) as its representative member bank in Jordan.

MasterCard International is also pleased to announce the appointment of: British Bank of the Middle East as its representative member bank to conduct acceptance, authorization and payment services for all MasterCard sales vouchers in Jordan.

Accordingly, all MasterCard International accredited merchants previously dealing through (BCCI) in Jordan, and any other merchants who wish to join the global acceptance network of MasterCard International in Jordan should contact as soon as possible the

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P.O. Box 925286 Jebel Hussein Amman

Please contact Mr. Kamal Sadeq on telephone 692961 Who will be pleased to set up the necessary arrangements.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Co. Invites

Contractors to participate in tender No. 4/91 for the supply of a number of truck tractors and semi-trailers as per technical specifications attached with terms of tender.

Contractors wishing to bid for tender can obtain copies of tender documents from the company in Jabal Al Hussein - behind Ministry of Health - opposite Al Fadel Bin Abbas Mosque - Amman for non-refundable fee of JD 160,000 (one hundred and sixty Jordan dinars) per copy, bearing official documents proving their registration in records of trading agents.

Offers should be submitted and deposited in tender box of company not later than 2.30 p.m. (local summer time) on Sunday, September 22nd, 1991.

Chairman/General-Manager
Hisham Asfour

By Abdalla Malki

Jordan Times

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Economic Forum

Taxes and supply-side economics

THE notion that higher tax rates depress tax proceeds and vice versa gains the sympathy of a growing body of academic opinion. It also appeals to the sentiments of taxpayers who can easily see that higher taxes rob them from the incentives to work more and harder, although some of them may arithmetically maze about how cutting taxes might lead to more tax revenues.

The famous Laffer curve endeavours to simplify the apprehension of the causal relationship between lower tax rates and higher proceeds: A 100 per cent rate means that the treasury scoops away the totality of income and therefore no individual or enterprise will have the slightest incentive to work and generate the income on which the tax is levied. Tax proceeds will consequently nosedive to naught. Cut tax rates gradually and more and more persons will be motivated to start work. Proportionate incomes will be generated and tax proceeds start to pick up.

The mechanism through which lower tax rates boost tax proceeds will be easier to discern if one distinguishes between the short-term and the longer term. Such distinction is most crucial in economic analysis.

In the short run, that is up to one year or perhaps up to two years in the context of tax analysis, cutting tax rates will undoubtedly depress revenues as well. But lower taxes boost tax

revenues mainly through working on production incentives and therefore time has to elapse until the production cycle is completed. It is only then that more income is generated and the tax base is consequently broadened in a way as to make up for the tax proceeds initially foregone due to tax cuts.

The optimistic version of the theory here goes as far as saying that the broadened tax base will more than make up for the lost revenues. Production cycles and the impact of the incentives to produce more can be completed only in the longer run.

Moreover, lower taxes serve to boost tax revenues not only through working on production incentives but also via suppressing the motives of tax evasion.

Taxpayers are prone to try to run away from high rates. They may work hard to devise ways and means for evading high taxes and sometimes do not mind taking legal risks for that purpose. With lower rates, the motive to do so is greatly diminished.

Thus, the point is that tax cuts depress revenues in the short run but they improve the health of the economy in the longer run and thereby lead to a permanent boost in tax revenues, which outweighs the initial drop in these revenues.

Now the ministers of finance of the day understandably do not care for the health of the economy five or ten years later. They care most to have adequate funds today. The financial headaches

of the far future are for somebody else to redress.

The Laffer curve, invented about ten years ago, was the basis for the tax revolution of Reaganomics in the United States and for the tax revolution of supply-side economics. As any other served as the core piece of supply-side economics. As any other theoretical innovation, it was challenged by some schools of thought. Since that time there has been an accumulation of empirical evidence that testifies to the soundness of the supply-side theorisation.

Paul Craig Roberts the chairman of the Institute for Political Economy in Washington and a regular contributor of an economic column in Business Week, published an interesting article in the Wall Street Journal Europe (August 13, 1991) in which he had reviewed the performance of the American economy in the eighties and found that it lent credence to the supply-side doctrine and stated that the promise of the (American) supply-side programme that it would rescue the U.S. economy from stagnation and permit growth without rising rates of inflation has been achieved. However, Mr. Roberts is a staunch proponent of supply-side economics and you would suspect that he might be biased. Not so, because his assessment is based on figures.

However, our economic policy managers are well-advised to read his article.

Peace engine must run

UPPERMOST on the minds of the peoples and governments of the Middle East countries is the fate of the ongoing peace process to resolve the long-standing Arab-Israeli conflict in the wake of the coup that overthrew Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Monday. Given the fact that the conference on this conflict is projected to start in October under the auspices of Washington and Moscow, there is every fear that the U.S. may not be in a mood to co-chair the parley with Moscow if the hardline communist forces that toppled Gorbachev succeed in consolidating their grip on power. In fact U.S. President George Bush has already raised such a possibility when he threatened not to cooperate henceforth with the new leadership in Moscow, having described Monday's seizure of power as unconstitutional. In other words, the U.S. administration could be viewing the new collective leadership in the USSR virtually as "outlaws" with whom Washington could not do serious business.

Thus the first casualty of the dramatic developments in the Soviet capital could very well be the joint sponsorship by the U.S. and the USSR of the peace conference. But does this necessarily mean that another form of the planned parley cannot be held under a different umbrella? It would be a sad development indeed if the existing momentum for peace negotiations will be frustrated, especially after the international community has succeeded in arm-twisting Israel into accepting to participate in the projected talks even though Tel Aviv's conditions for doing so are still unacceptable to the Arab side, particularly the PLO.

It must be borne in mind that the Israeli government under the leadership of the Likud Bloc, never wanted to be party to any meaningful peace conference and has done every conceivable thing to sabotage the international consensus on the need to hold such a conference. The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, might be the first to sigh with relief at the diminishing prospects of ever holding peace talks. By the same token, the Arab side including the Palestinians may not rejoice at the ominous prospects of derailing the anticipated peace negotiations. That is why every effort must be exerted to separate the power change in Moscow from the global solemn decision to hold the peace parley as planned. To paraphrase PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's recent caution against not conducting peace negotiations, aborting such talks would necessarily lead to further justification of Arab territories. Besides, the new-old leadership in Moscow may want to insist on improved conditions for convening peace talks on the Arab-Israeli dispute, something that the Arab side would welcome. After all, Moscow has consistently called for the full implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and there is every reason to believe that Moscow would once again reiterate that position perhaps this time more forcefully than before. All in all, therefore, the decision to hold peace talks this coming October must continue to be binding even though the turmoil in the Soviet Union may cast a heavy shadow on East-West cooperation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Jordanian papers Tuesday gave prominent editorial comments on the toppling of Mikhail Gorbachev

Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that Gorbachev's role brought shame to the people of the Soviet Union because his leadership was characterised by total submission to Washington. Gorbachev, like former British premier Thatcher, fell not only because of their treacherous acts towards the Iraqi people, but also due to their treachery against their own nations, the paper noted. These two leaders have shown disregard to human principles and values and preferred to serve under the American banner to achieve personal gains, the paper added. We believe that toppling Gorbachev is a courageous move on the part of the Soviet people and military who refuse to be humiliated by the Americans and Western Europeans and are brave enough to rise against American and European plots designed to transform the Soviet Union into a nation of starving people or criminals and outlaws, the paper said. Despite allegations by Washington and London that the toppling of Gorbachev was unconstitutional, the people and armed forces in the Soviet Union will have the upper hand, the paper continued. It said that the Western countries have no power to bring back Gorbachev and can by no means impose an embargo on Moscow similar to that imposed on Iraq to humiliate the Soviet people. The paper sent greetings to the new Soviet leadership which, it said, is now leading the Soviet people away from servitude and slavery and towards real independence.

The toppling of Gorbachev was bound to happen because his policies have caused so much damage to the reputation of the superpower, said Al Dustour daily. What happened in the Soviet Union Monday, has its deep effect not only on the Soviet people themselves, but also on many nations of the world in view of the influence Moscow has and the role it used to play in world politics, the paper noted. The developments in the Soviet Union are indeed of paramount importance and are bound to have repercussions throughout the world because the new leaders in the Kremlin are determined to reestablish Moscow's world power and restore the Soviet Union's respect and dignity which were severely damaged by Gorbachev's behaviour, the paper added. We have no regrets to see Gorbachev fall from power simply because the ousted ruler had paved the ground for the United States to become the sole superpower, manipulating world affairs and causing real damage to Arab causes, the paper noted. It said that the Arabs are happy to see the end of a leadership that had opened the door wide for the Soviet Jews to settle in the occupied Arab territories and condoned Washington's aggression on Iraq.

Gorbachev ouster could have ripples around the world

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

LONDON — The hardliners who ousted President Mikhail Gorbachev probably can't reverse the democratisation of Eastern Europe and steps taken toward arms control. But their sudden takeover generated uncertainty about virtually every global trouble spot.

Soviet experts predicted a delay in ratifying the U.S.-Soviet treaty reducing strategic arms and questioned the new regime's stature to co-sponsor a Mideast Peace conference.

Iran worried about possible civil war in its giant neighbour. Pakistan feared that peace talks with anti-Soviet guerrillas in Afghanistan would be derailed. Israel wondered whether emigration of Soviet Jews would end, or

become a flood. Japan was concerned about the effect on a territorial dispute.

Around the globe, politicians and Soviet experts debated the potential international fallout from the downfall of a superpower leader whose cooperation with the West had generated hopes of a new world order.

Iraq, which counts itself a victim of Soviet-Western cooperation, enthusiastically greeted the change of government. Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi also welcomed the hardline revolt.

Economists worried that turmoil in the Soviet Union could endanger the world economy's fragile recovery by putting upward pressure on interest rates.

"The saving grace is that a great deal of the progress made as a result of Gorbachev's new thinking on foreign policy cannot

be undone," said Prof. Paul Wilkinson, head of the Department of International Relations at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

"It is not feasible for the hardliners to turn the clock back in Europe and impose monolithic communist regimes once again on the newly liberated and democratised Eastern European countries," he said.

"But it does underline the urgency of establishing fresh security arrangements to protect these countries which cannot guarantee their own security alone," he said.

Western leaders said they are watching developments carefully and Soviet experts predicted a moratorium on virtually everything.

A spokesman for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said Mr. Gor-

bachev's replacement could be a major setback for negotiations to end the 13-year-old war in Afghanistan.

"I think it's all down the drain," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

The conservative International Freedom Foundation, based in Washington, said the overthrow could threaten democratisation in Southern Africa by undermining the U.S.-Soviet relationship that led to resolving regional conflicts, particularly Angola.

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee said the coup makes it "very difficult for us to have any confidence in the signing" of the Strategic Arms Treaty which cut stocks by one-third. The START accord was

signed last month by Mr. Gorbachev and President Bush.

The hardliners have pressing problems to deal with and are in no position to reverse Mr. Gorbachev's efforts to cool the arms race, said Soviet expert Henry Dadds, editor of Jane's Intelligence Review.

"They're doing it not because they like the West but because the burden of military spending is too high for a dangerously weakened Soviet economy to sustain," said Prof. Stephen White of the University of Glasgow whose book "Gorbachev and After" was published here this week.

Andrew Duncan of the International Institute of Strategic Studies urged the West not to halt the phased defence cuts already under way.

"The quickest way to get them (Soviet military chiefs) to start an arms race is to say we're going to cancel all the defence cuts. Everybody has got to be very careful indeed," said Mr. Duncan.

Dr. Dadds said the Soviet military may now slow the pace of withdrawal of its armed forces in Eastern Europe. This could in turn prompt NATO to examine its plans to cut in forces stationed in Germany.

But Paul Beaver, publisher of Jane's Defence weekly, said: "The major threat to Europe is not one of interview or reconquering of the Warsaw Pact, but one of economic refugees and political asylum seekers rushing to a new life in the West."

"They're defending their borders against refugees, not against Soviet tanks," he said.



Gorbachev's fall — was the U.S. intelligence community caught out?

By Jim Wolf
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. intelligence community, which spends billions of dollars assessing the Soviet Union, appears to have been caught flatfooted by President Mikhail Gorbachev's ouster on Monday.

Although senior U.S. officials had publicly cited the possibility of a hardline crackdown, intelligence assessments were hedged, as is often the case, to cover all bases, according to several well-placed experts.

"Did they categorically predict that right-wing dissatisfaction would trigger a palace coup?" asked Vincent Cannistraro, a retired Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer who directed intelligence programmes for President Ronald Reagan's National Security Council.

"No they did not," he said, citing background briefings with officials and former colleagues. "The community tried to cover its ass, and to the degree that they did not make concrete judgments, I suppose that could be identified as a deficiency."

President George Bush said on Monday that he had not received intelligence predicting a coup at the time Mr. Gorbachev was removed by hardline communists.

But "there's always been a concern," President Bush told reporters at his seaside home in

Kennebunkport, Maine, before breaking off his summer holiday to return to the White House. "I think if we go back... you would see that I've expressed concern about the hard-liners taking over."

William Webster, the outgoing director of the CIA, in late May described Mr. Gorbachev's future as "increasingly uncertain." He cited tension from the possible breakup of the Soviet Union and the danger of economic collapse.

"Moses did not get to the promised land, and this may be the case with Gorbachev," Mr. Webster said in a May 30 interview to mark the end of his four-year tenure.

Of course, there had been no lack of warnings from senior Soviet officials.

Eduard Shevardnadze announced his resignation as foreign minister on Dec. 20, saying Mr. Gorbachev's reforms were threatened by conservatives pushing for a dictatorship.

And an estranged Gorbachev confidant and reform strategist, Aleksandr Yakovlev, asserted last Friday that party reactionaries were planning a Stalinist coup. The leadership was purging reformers "and preparing social revenge," he said.

Mr. Cannistraro, now a senior fellow at the National Strategy Information Centre, said in a telephone interview: "Those

were bells that were ringing very loudly."

But the intelligence community "did not put them into a concrete prediction that Gorbachev was in trouble," although it did describe the instability in Moscow fairly accurately, he said.

The CIA, asked to comment, said Mr. Cannistraro had left the agency about a year ago and did not have access to current intelligence reporting and analysis.

"While he is entitled to his own opinions, he is certainly not in a position to authoritatively comment on classified intelligence reporting and judgments on this issue," spokesman Mark Mansfield said.

Arthur Hartman, a former U.S. ambassador in Moscow, said in an interview with NBC television that the United States had failed to properly evaluate the warnings from Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Yakovlev.

Overly broad U.S. assessments have been a frequent bone of contention. Army General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces that drove Iraq from Kuwait in February, complained to Congress in June that much of the intelligence he received was too wishy-washy to be of any use.

Government spending on intelligence is classified, but is estimated to total about \$30 billion annually, much of it targeted on the Soviet Union.

Sketches of leading Soviet emergency committee members

MOSCOW (R) — Following are biographical sketches of leading members of the Soviet Union's state emergency committee, which ousted President Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday.

The eight-man hardline team, saying it had acted to avoid chaos, imposed a state of emergency in Moscow and elsewhere, sent tanks out into the capital and banned all but a handful of newspapers.

In brackets are their official titles, as given by TASS news agency.

Gennady Yanayev (Acting President of the USSR).

Hand-picked by President Gorbachev last December as a vice-president he could trust, the 54-year-old party bureaucrat replaced his erstwhile mentor in the takeover, saying the country had become ungovernable under him.

He said at a news conference on Monday the committee remained committed to democratic and market reforms.

A stocky, hearty Russian who likes ice hockey and has an earthy sense of humour, Mr. Yanayev made his way to the top through the Communist Party hierarchy, its Komsomol youth wing and the trade union movement.

Just two months ago, he told a German radio agency he warmly backed Mr. Gorbachev but said popular discontent against his economic reforms was rising.

"We need about two years to stabilise our country and get moving slowly forward," he said. "I hope Gorbachev will be at the forefront of this process."

But in December he told the Soviet parliament, which was prophetically sceptical about his commitment to Mr. Gorbachev's reforms: "I am a convinced communist to the depths of my soul. You can't make me budge from that."

It took two attempts to get Mr. Yanayev elected in parliament after dismayed radicals and republicans deputies joined forces to deny him the vice-presidential post first time round.

Mr. Yanayev graduated from an agricultural institute in 1959 and later studied law and won a



Gennady Yanayev



Vladimir Kryuchkov

doctorate in history, writing a thesis on "Problems of Trotskyism and Anarchy."

Vladimir Kryuchkov (Chairman of the KGB).

Kryuchkov, 67, became head of the KGB in 1988 and presided over a campaign to put a more human face on the once-secretive security and intelligence apparatus.

But, despite public backing for Mr. Gorbachev's reforms, Mr. Kryuchkov is regarded as a hardliner who has been responsible for renewed vigour in the KGB's military and economic spying.

Mr. Kryuchkov joined the party in 1944 and trained as a diplomat before switching to the KGB in the 1960s. He says he is a keen theatre-goer and reader.

Valentin Pavlov (Prime Minister of the USSR)

Another Gorbachev nominee, former Finance Minister Pavlov became prime minister in January despite a reputation as an old-style bureaucrat with little stomach for free-market economic reforms.

Mr. Pavlov, 53, has been described by some as a competent economist but has also been criticised by others for displaying economic ignorance and making disastrous decisions as finance minister.

Easily recognised by his brushed crew-cut and short, rotund figure, Mr. Pavlov alleged just a month after he was made premier that the West had plotted to oust Mr. Gorbachev by flood-

ing the international currency market with roubles.

Dmitri Yazov (Defence Minister of the USSR)

General Yazov, 67, took over the Defence Ministry in December 1987 with the task of galvanising the vast country's defence after the embarrassment caused by the undetected flight to Moscow by a teenage West German pilot in a light aircraft.

His uniform is well decked with medals and ribbons after nearly 50 years in the army but, in an attempt to change his image, he took to wearing suits on trips to the West.

General Yazov, emerged as a major exponent of Mr. Gorbachev's new approach to strategic planning, but he headed a sector of society renowned for conservative views.

Soviet forces are also smarting from having to withdraw from former allied states in Eastern Europe, including Czechoslovakia where Gen. Yazov once commanded the Soviet garrison.

Boris Pugo (Interior Minister of the USSR)

Born in Latvia in 1937, Mr. Pugo headed the KGB there and was also party chief in the Baltic republic.

He was appointed interior minister in 1990.

No fan of Mr. Gorbachev's efforts to adopt a market economy, Mr. Pugo has blown these liberal economic policies for the Soviet Union's growth problems.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

I often read the Jordan Times, which I find useful for me as a B.A. graduate in the English language. I would, however, like to point out to two areas where your newspaper may not be objective.

First, the professed neutrality of the Jordan Times is negated by the "attack" by some reporters on Islamic ministers and deputies elected by the people. I'm talking in particular about the minister of education, a former teacher who knows many things about education while those who

attacked him were not specialists.

Second, some essays published on Islamic issues, written by foreign analysts, contain inaccurate information and comments which should be corrected by you as the writers are not Muslim and analysts, it is incumbent on any newspaper like yours to set the record straight (by checking facts and publishing readers letters) on issues pertaining to our religion.

Youssef Al-Omari
P.O. 1166
Zak

Archaeological discovery suggests Greek influence on Egyptian civilisation

By David Keys

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have found extraordinary evidence suggesting that 3,600 years ago ancient Egypt was powerfully influenced by the civilisation of what is now the Greek Aegean.

The discovery has been made inside a citadel on the Nile delta. Excavations backed up by British archaeologists have uncovered the remains of a magnificent fresco painted in the style of the Minoan civilisation of ancient Crete, 500 miles away.

The discovery has been made by a team of Egyptologists from Vienna University excavating one of ancient Egypt's long-lost capitals, Avaris.

Some of the most important pottery and jewellery from the site is being examined by archaeologists from Edinburgh University, while metalwork is being analysed by an authority on bronzes from the British School in Amman, Jordan. United Kingdom (U.K.) scientists are also planning to carry out tests on wind-blown volcanic pumice found at Avaris which could shed light on the dating of the volcanic eruption which destroyed the Aegean island of Santorini.

The frescos, which appear to have decorated the walls of a royal palace, should help shed light on one of Egyptology's greatest mysteries — who was ruling Egypt at the time when Avaris was the country's capital.

Ancient Egyptian chroniclers described these mysterious rulers as the hik-khowsu or Hyksos — "the princes from foreign lands" — and archaeologists have speculated that they came from what is now Israel and Lebanon.

In the Bible, the era during which the Hyksos ruled Egypt is particularly important because many scholars believe it was then that Joseph and the original Children of Israel settled in Egypt prior to the Exodus.

The discovery of the frescos is sure to fuel debate as to the cultural and ethnic identity of the Hyksos rulers — and who they were influenced by.

The presence of Minoan paintings in a Nile delta royal palace suggests that there may have been considerable Cretan political or religious influence.

Unless the frescos merely reflect a liking for foreign art works, they probably represent some sort of political or religious influence.

It is conceivable that the Hyksos pharaoh, whose palace it was, had a Cretan as a leading minister, or married a Cretan or was of partly Cretan origin.

The frescos are religious in content, and it may also be that they reflect a respect for Cretan deities at the court of the Hyksos rulers. The main god of Avaris is believed to have been the Egyptian deity of disorder and storms — Seth; while evidence from Crete of a wind cult, of bull symbolism and sacred mountains suggests that an aspect of Minoan religion may also have been based on some sort of storm or weather god.

The bull — an animal which features in the newly discovered Avaris frescos as well as in Minoan art on Crete — was definitely linked in some areas elsewhere in the ancient world to the worship of storm gods.

In Egypt, however, the worship of Seth and his equivalents to the exclusion of the sun god was seen at least in later centuries as a heinous activity. Whereas the "foreign princes" of Avaris seem to have paid special attention to Seth, ethnic Egyptians later came to regard Seth as the devil incarnate — a wild and evil red-haired, white-skinned deity who had ferociously ripped himself out of his mother's womb.

The Hyksos ruled the Nile delta area and much of northern Egypt between about 1650 and 1540 BC.

The Minoan frescos were discovered inside a heavily fortified citadel which would have dominated the city of Avaris.

They appear to have adorned the walls of a hall within the palace — and are very similar in content and identical in style to the Minoan wall painting at Knossos in Crete on the other side of the Mediterranean.

Painted as Cretan civilisation reached its zenith, the Avaris frescos feature typical Minoan motifs. One depicts people jumping over bulls — a Cretan religious practice. Another shows women in Cretan costumes, while another depicts Cretan-style mountain landscapes.

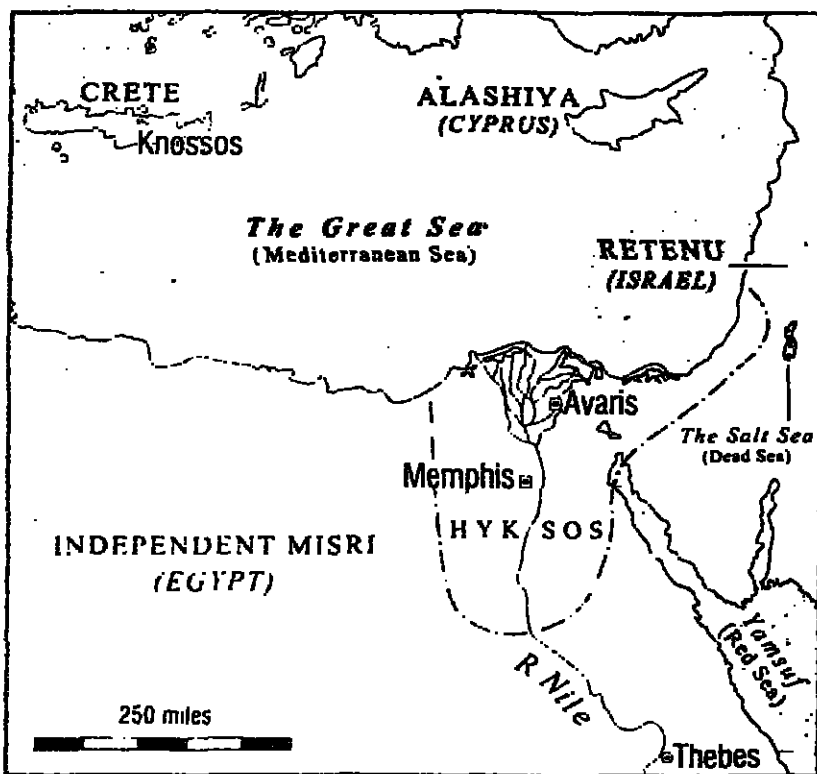
Which Hyksos kings ruled from this painted palace remains a mystery. However, the name of one — Khajan — has been found inscribed on the lid of an alabaster pot discovered in Knossos.

Just as the Israelites in Egypt were enslaved after the Hyksos period, the palace itself was destroyed by the Egyptian Pharaoh Amosis, who finally reconquered northern Egypt after a century of foreign Hyksos rule.

At Avaris, the archaeologists — under the overall direction of Professor Manfred Bietak, of Vienna University — have even found a thin layer of burnt red earth which represents the final fall of Avaris and the Hyksos kingdom.

The discovery of the Minoan-style frescos is viewed as sensational by British archaeologists.

Janine Bourriau, fellow of Cambridge University's McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, said: "This is an astonishing find. We will have to rethink the history of this important period." — The Independent.



Gandhi suspect kills himself

(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Gandhi was killed at an election campaign rally in Sripembudur near Madras in south India by a young woman who detonated a bomb strapped to her waist. Mr. Gandhi, the suicide bomber and 16 other people were killed.

Sivaras was photographed at the meeting by a cameraman who also was killed in the blast.

The militant was holding a note pad and a pen in his hand, and was suspected to have gained entry to the venue by posing as a journalist, investigators have said.

Police have arrested 22 people suspected to be involved in the conspiracy. At least 16 other suspects have committed suicide, including one who escaped from detention and was found hanged the next day.

The questioning of those arrested led to the discovery of Sivaras's identity. Police launched the biggest manhunt in India's history, raiding suspected hideouts across south India and sending teams to far-flung cities, including New Delhi and Calcutta.

Authorities had offered a reward of one million rupees (\$40,000) for the one-eyed Sivaras and 500,000 rupees (\$20,000) for Subha. Their photographs were plastered onto public buildings and buses across India.

Police refused to divulge how they came to know Sivaras was in the Konanakunte house, but say the hideout was under surveillance since Sunday evening.

Mr. Ramalingam said police waited for reinforcements and for a medical team with an antidote to counter the effects of cyanide.

On Monday evening the militants opened fire, setting off an hour-long gunbattle in which three policemen were injured, he said.

The house was kept flooded through the night, but no movement was seen, Mr. Ramalingam said. Shortly after dawn, three teams of police commandos stormed into the building and found the seven militants, including two women, dead.

It was not clear when the suicides occurred. Sivaras was found with an AK-47 assault rifle and a pistol by his side.

The Tamil Tigers have denied responsibility for Mr. Gandhi's assassination, and the motive for the killing was unclear.

As prime minister in 1987, Mr. Gandhi sponsored a truce between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil militants and sent a peacekeeping force to monitor the agreement.

'Jews can still emigrate'

(Continued from Page 1)

The right-wing Jerusalem Post said Israel would have to reconsider its acceptance of the Soviet Union as a co-sponsor of peace talks should the new rulers halt Jewish emigration or take sides against Israel.

"There is still the danger the new rulers, who are extreme conservatives and men of force, will encourage the extremists among the Arabs including Syria," Israel's biggest daily, Yedioth Ahronoth, said in an editorial.

Acting Soviet President Genady Yanayev told an Israeli cabinet minister at a recent meeting that "the Soviet Union today is different, will remain different and will not turn back," the official recalled.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan also said that Mr. Yanayev, then Soviet vice-president, praised agricultural cooperation with Israel and said Moscow's rupture of ties with the Jewish state in 1967 was a mistake.

The two officials met during Mr. Eitan's visit to the Soviet Union in July.

Mr. Yanayev "said that it's a pity that they cut ties with us, that they should not have done so."

King: No reason peace process be affected

(Continued from Page 1)

an important basis for achieving world peace," Mr. Assad said.

"The efforts to solve the Palestinian problem, establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and bring about Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories must go on regardless of any developments," he said.

He said Syria is eager to see the Soviet Union achieve stability and continue its role in the Middle East peace process.

Syria said the overthrow of Mr. Gorbachev could give Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir a chance to back out of the peace conference.

"The Shamir government will not hesitate to exploit developments in the Soviet Union to work towards

evading an international conference and the requirements for peace," said a commentary of Damascus Radio.

"The Shamir government is not concerned for peace. It is making many efforts to sabotage the October peace conference called by the United States and the Soviet Union," the radio said.

The warning, Syria's first public assessment of Monday's Kremlin upheaval, was part of a commentary on talks between President Assad and King Hussein.

Damascus Radio said the talks centred on how to make the proposed conference a success.

It said the Shamir government was hindering the peace process by making "aggressive statements, putting conditions on Palestinian representa-

tion and announcing new settlement activities in occupied Arab lands."

"Arabs are standing today and tomorrow with every effort aimed at establishing a just and permanent peace."

"But they will never bargain over basic rights or the occupied territories because there could be no peace with occupation," the radio concluded.

The official daily Tishreen said the Syrian-Jordanian talks were aimed at forging a joint Arab stand "to confront Zionist obstinacy."

"Israel is not missing any chance to undermine peace efforts and set up obstacles to prevent the implementation of U.N. resolutions regarding Palestinian rights and withdrawal from occupied Arab territories," the paper said.

Bush: Peace efforts will continue

(Continued from Page 1)

interest of other parties to move forward in the peace process."

But "no government or nation likes to be forced to doing something against its own will," he added, implying a reaffirmation of the known American position that Washington will not exert any pressure on its long-time Middle East ally.

Mr. Kelly contended that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had "damaged itself" when it supported Iraq in the Gulf crisis. He also assailed the PLO's support for the overthrow of the Soviet president saying "I think it's time for all responsible political leaders around the world and in the Middle East to put the rule of law. It's an important thing for the PLO to do to begin to refurbish its credentials."

Mr. Kelly conceded however that while it is in the interest of all parties concerned to have Palestinians present at the peace conference, whether independently or in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, it was up to the Palestinians to decide on the form of participation. "Clearly Palestinians will have the ultimate voice on who will represent them at the conference," he said.

Mr. Kelly denounced the overthrow of Mr. Gorbachev. What we are witnessing in the Soviet Union is an event of historical importance. There has been an attempt by extra constitutional means that is means contrary to the (Soviet) constitution to alter the leadership

of that country," he said. "Whether or not this attempt that bypasses legality will succeed is yet unknown."

Speaking about the human rights violations against Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait, Mr. Kelly said that the American government had discussed the matter with the Kuwaiti government. "The human rights question in Kuwait has preoccupied the American government," he said. "We have made it very clear that we want all human beings that reside in Kuwait to receive equal and fair treatment under Kuwaiti law."

Mr. Kelly contended that Jordan had received from the international community "several hundred million dollars in assistance to help Jordan (alleviate) the burden of absorbing Gulf war refugees."

Actually Jordan was pledged \$56 million and only \$16 million of the promised amount reached the Kingdom, officials say.

Jordanian officials point out that the assistance the Kingdom received from the European Community and Japan was not in the context of the hundreds of thousands of refugees who passed through Jordan but was granted to offset its losses resulting from the Gulf crisis and the international sanctions against Iraq.

Mr. Kelly did not rule out renewed use of force against Iraq if "it did not comply with international law and the Security Council resolutions."

Tension runs at high pitch in Moscow

(Continued from Page 1)

of "continued U.S. support" in his effort to restore Mr. Gorbachev as president of the Soviet Union.

"There will not be normal relations with the Soviet Union as long as the coup is in place," said Mr. Bush. He said he "has suspended economic assistance to Moscow."

"We're not sitting here for a while, leaving everything on hold," he told reporters at a mid-morning White House news conference.

Mr. Bush said he'd tried twice to call Mr. Gorbachev — "the duly constituted leader of the Soviet Union" — but had not been able to get through.

Mr. Bush swore in Robert Strauss as U.S. ambassador to Moscow, and sent him there on an immediate fact-finding mission. But Mr. Bush said Mr. Strauss will not present his credentials to the hardliners who ousted Mr. Gorbachev Monday.

"Circumstances have changed rather dramatically since I accepted this assignment. It's a different world," Mr. Strauss said. But he said his task remains the same, to speak clearly "and if necessary with diplomatic candor from time to time"

to the leaders at the Kremlin.

Mr. Bush said world leaders hoped the crisis would not turn into an East-West confrontation. He said he was returning to vacation in Maine but would be holding meetings there to watch events in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Bush said it was hard to say whether the coup would succeed.

"There appears to be very strong support from the people in the Soviet Union for constitutional government, for democratic reform," Mr. Bush said. "You don't take freedom away from people very easily. You don't set back democracy very easily."

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Pele suggests radical changes in rules



Pele

MONTECATINI, Italy (AP) — Pele, one of the greatest players in soccer history, has called for radical changes in current rules to make soccer more exciting for fans.

"All sports, from tennis to basketball, have progressed while soccer has changed almost nothing in its rules. It's time to change," said Pele, who is in this Italian city to follow the under-17 World Championships.

The International Soccer Federation, FIFA, is experimenting with some new rules in the under-17 competition.

They include limiting kicks to the 16 metres closest to the goal, and giving penalties to goalies who use their hands to stop backpasses from teammates.

Pele said he fully supports FIFA's attempt to improve the game, but added the changes should be more significant.

The 51-year-old Brazilian, who retired in the late 1970s, suggested abolishing the wall on free

kicks and expelling defenders who foul a forward from the back. He also called for eliminating throw-ins, instead making players kick the ball back into play when it has gone out of bounds.

Pele, who scored 1,280 goals in his career, also said the area in which goalies can leap to catch or knock away passes should be restricted, to give better chances for forwards to launch headers.

"FIFA is a big industry and has concentrated on some major economic innovations in the past few years. Now it's up to the rules," Pele said.

He said the new offside rules being tried in the under-17 games in Tuscany "have already reduced the number of players performing at midfield, who under previous rules carried out an obsessive pressing, drying up the source of play."

Al Ramtha thrashes Syria's Tishreen 6-1

By Samir Janakat
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — Jordan's Al Ramtha Monday defeated Syria's Tishreen 6-1 in the opening match of an Arab soccer tournament organized by Al Ramtha at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

The Syrian team did not show much resistance in front of Al Ramtha's continued attacks in the match which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and over 5,000 soccer fans.

Al Ramtha's first goal was scored by the team captain and striker Rabea Al Daoud in the 43rd minute and soon after, just before the end of the first half of the match, Khalid Al Agouri of Al Ramtha scored the second goal.

Al Ramtha, holder of the

Jordanian Soccer Federation Shield and Jordan's Cup winner, continued its attacks in the second half. Agouri scored the third goal for his team and Muwafiq Abu Hadid added the fourth to keep the pressure on the Syrian team, which seemed helpless in front of Al Ramtha's endless attacks.

Badran Al Shaqran, who replaced Salim Thiabat, then scored the fifth and sixth goals for Al Ramtha before Tishreen's international player Abdullah Mandou scored his team's only goal.

With this result Al Ramtha topped the list of the teams taking part in the tournament. Besides Al Ramtha, Al Hussein and the Jordan National Olympic team are participating from Jordan and Tishreen and Al Wihda from Syria.

S. Africa fails to return to international athletics

TOKYO (R) — South Africa will not be readmitted to international athletics following a decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) congress Tuesday to accept a recommendation from the sport's ruling body.

The IAAF council decided Sunday it could not recommend readmission of the republic, expelled from the IAAF in 1976 because of its apartheid policies.

"There is currently no unity, no final constitution and no development programme in operation in South African athletics," the council said.

The decision means that unless the congress holds an extraordinary general meeting and reverses its decision, South African athletes will not compete at next year's Barcelona Olympics. The congress is not scheduled to meet again until 1993.

However, a group of six South Africans, who said they represented 95 per cent of South African athletes, said at a news conference they were confident that South Africa would send an

athletics team to Barcelona. IAAF council member Istvan Gyulai of Hungary told a separate news conference following the first session of the two-day congress meeting the question of South Africa's readmission had not even been put to a vote.

"The congress applauded the position of the council," Gyulai said.

Gyulai said South Africa needed to demonstrate that the various factories of the South African Amateur Athletic Association (SAAAA) were unified and that it had a final constitution and a development programme.

"If the situation changes, then there will be a new approach," he said.

IAAF officials said this week if the council decided that South Africa satisfied its conditions it could recommend that the congress readmit the republic.

They said the congress could then hold a postal vote and if it accepted the recommendation South Africa could still be admitted to the IAAF in time for the Olympics in July.

The South African athletes in Tokyo said they had talks with the African Amateur Athletic Confederation Monday and agreed that the SAAAA should have demonstrated by Oct. 12 that it had achieved the IAAF objectives.

Spokesman Brian De Lacy said in an interview afterwards that he hoped the confederation would then recommend to the council that South Africa be readmitted.

Long distance runner Banele Sindani told reporters: "We will be in Barcelona and you can quote me on that."

Meanwhile, Italy's Primo Nebiolo was re-elected as president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation Tuesday for a four-year term.

Nebiolo, IAAF chief since 1981, stood unopposed after being nominated by 62 federations.

The first day of the IAAF's two-day biennial congress also voted to increase the size of the governing council from 23 to 25 members.

Maleevas, Meshki advance in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Worried about her family back in Soviet Georgia did not keep Leila Meshki from advancing to the second round of the Virginia Slings of Washington Monday.

Meanwhile, Monica Seles' only familiar worry was whether she could get her mother to call in the top-seed's withdrawal.

Meski, the seventh seed, was leading Italy's Linda Ferrando 6-3, 4-4, when Ferrando retired because of heat exhaustion.

Afterwards, few people wanted to talk about the match. Instead, Meski was questioned about the situation in the Soviet Union, where President Mikhail Gorbachev was ousted.

It turned out Meski had no more information than those asking the questions.

"I'm nervous, because I don't know what's going on yet," the 23-year-old Meski said. She said she couldn't reach her parents by phone. She said she was home in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, just two weeks ago.

"Everything was fine then. This is very strange," she said.

Meski is one of two Soviets playing singles. The other, Natalia Zvereva, played in the doubles final at the Slings of Los Angeles Sunday, and was expected to play singles Tuesday.

Four other Eastern Europeans were able to put aside political concerns and win first round matches Monday — Bulgarians Katerina and Magdalena Maleeva and Czechoslovakians Andrea Strnadova and Regina Rajchrtova.

Seles withdrew from the tournament, this time getting her mother to call in her absence.

The Yugoslav was asked to compete in the \$350,000 event when Steffi Graf, the world's top-ranked player, pulled out with a shoulder injury. Seles said she would consider the request, then had her mother call a tour official Monday to say she would not play in Washington.

Seles has had an eventful, if not event-filled, summer. After winning the first two legs of the Grand Slam this year, the Australian and French Opens, she pulled out of Wimbledon, citing injuries. She sent a note from her doctor to the Women's Tennis Federation (WTF) explaining her absence.

She also missed the Federation Cup in July, which got her barred from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Also, Seles was fined by the WTF for playing in a New Jersey exhibition tournament, while missing tour sponsored events.

Back on the court, fifth-seeded Zina Garrison defeated Cristina Tassi 6-2, 6-2; and the two youngest Maleeva sisters, Katerina and Magdalena, scored first round victories.

Katerina, the sixth seed, defeated Carrie Cunningham, 6-4, 6-0, while Magdalena, the youngest of the three Bulgarian sisters, topped Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist, 6-4, 6-3.

Hungarian breaks swimming record

ATHENS (R) — World Champion Norbert Rozsa destroyed the world 100 metres breaststroke record in the European Swimming Championship heats Tuesday, lowering the mark he had previously shared with Soviet rival Vasily Ivanov.

The 19-year-old Hungarian touched in one minute 01.29 seconds to win the penultimate heat and break the 1:01.45 mark he set in winning the world title in Perth, Australia, last January.

Ivanov, 18, who equalled the record in Moscow in June, could not match that performance and finished fourth in the last heat in 1:03.30, failing to make the final.

Rozsa, unruffled by a false start by German Ralph Faerber, clearly meant business as he hit the turn in 28.67, inside world record schedule.

The Hungarian raced on to win the heat by a vast 1.40-second margin from World Championship bronze medalist Gianni Minervini of Italy.

"I was ready for the record but I expected it in the final, not so early in the morning," Rozsa said.

"It was a good race. I kept my strength for the second half. I feel good for the final. It may easily be another record."

Olympic champion Adrian Moorhouse, who performed a similar world record-breaking feat in heats at the last European championships in Bonn in 1989, produced the second-fastest qualifying time of 1:02.30 in the second heat.

The 27-year-old Briton, defending the title he has won three times in succession, began an extraordinary sequence when he broke the five-year-old world mark of American Steve Lundquist with a time of 1:01.49 in Bonn.

Moorhouse equalled the record at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland in January 1990 and matched it yet again in London the following July.

Rozsa continued the improbable sequence by equalling that jinxed time when he beat Moorhouse in the World Championship heats and then finally shattered four hundredths of a second from it in the final and left the Briton with the silver medal.

Rozsa, virtually unknown outside Hungary before Perth and not even in the world top 100 in 1989, was the revelation of the World Championships in which, at 18, he followed up the 100 gold and world record with a silver medal and European record in the 200.

Petri Suominen of Finland won the last heat in 1:02.57 ahead of Olympic bronze medalist Dmitri Volkov of the Soviet Union (1:02.89) and Belgium's Frederic Deburghgraeve (1:02.99).

All three made the final, but not fourth-placed Ivanov, whose 1:03.30 left him 10th overall.

Rozsa's team mate Karoly Gutler, silver medalist at the 1988 Seoul Olympics just one hundredth of a second behind Moorhouse, filled the last qualifying place after finishing second to the Briton in the second heat in 1:03.11.

Gutler led at the turn from Dutchman Ron Dekker, with Moorhouse third, but the Olympic champion asserted his authority down the second length and won by the best part of a second.

Hungary looked likely to end the day with two titles as Krisztina Egerszegi led qualifiers in the women's 400 individual medley.

Egerszegi, double world backstroke champion, won the final heat in 4:43.22, while German Grit Mueller, European bronze medalist in 1989, failed to make the final.

Ex-east German Mueller lacked her usual drive and was never in the picture, finishing fifth in a heat she had been seeded to win and clocking 4:57.26 — 14 seconds slower than 1989 silver medalist Egerszegi.

The night match was the only one played on the opening day of the \$250,000 tournament after the entire day programme was wiped out by a hurricane that swept along the east coast of the United States.

Lendl, who reigned for 156 successive weeks as world number one, has slipped slowly since giving up the top ranking a year ago.

Struggling to come back from hand surgery earlier this year, Lendl dropped to number five this week to fall from the top four for the first time in 10 years.

"I just need to win some matches," Lendl said. "It's hard to come back while everyone else has been playing all along."

"I hope it (his form) comes back in time for the U.S. Open next week. I know it's there. It's just a matter of getting it."

Back on the court, fifth-seeded Zina Garrison defeated Cristina Tassi 6-2, 6-2; and the two youngest Maleeva sisters, Katerina and Magdalena, scored first round victories.

Katerina, the sixth seed, defeated Carrie Cunningham, 6-4, 6-0, while Magdalena, the youngest of the three Bulgarian sisters, topped Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist, 6-4, 6-3.

Seles withdrew from the tournament, this time getting her mother to call in her absence.

The Yugoslav was asked to compete in the \$350,000 event when Steffi Graf, the world's top-ranked player, pulled out with a shoulder injury. Seles said she would consider the request, then had her mother call a tour official Monday to say she would not play in Washington.

SPORT NEWS IN BRIEF

Antibo doubtful for championships

TOKYO (R) — Double European champion Salvatore Antibo may have to pull out of the 10,000 metres at the World Athletics Championships after suffering from breathing problems this week. Italy's Antibo, gold medalist in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres in Split, Yugoslavia, last year has not been able to train since Sunday. Italian team sources said Tuesday that Antibo, who is taking antibiotics, would decide later in the week whether to run the 10,000 metres heats Saturday's opening day. Antibo was one of only a handful of athletes to arrive here by Tuesday with most teams opting to stay at venues outside the crowded Japanese capital.

7 Champions reach rowing semis

VIENNA (AP) — Seven defending world champions rowed into the semifinals Monday on the first full day of competition at the World Rowing Championships. Single scull lightweight title holders Mette Bloch Jensen of Denmark and Holland's Frans Goebel clinched semifinal berths rowing against a brisk morning breeze. In the men's lightweight coxless fours, defending world champion Germany won its heat to qualify for the semifinals. The Netherlands, Canada, Britain, Italy, the United States, Spain, Australia and Ireland also won places in the semis. In the women coxless pairs, defending champions Stefani Werremerie and Ingeburg Althoff of Germany cruised the two-kilometre course in 7 minutes, 58.09 seconds. And the German title holders in the women's double sculls also romped home in 7:50.35, 8.92 seconds ahead of Americans Alison Townley and Kris Karlson to snatch the semi-final place.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH
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ONE HIGH CARD TOO MANY

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 8 7
♥ A Q 10 4
♦ A Q J 7
♣ J 8

EAST
♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ 8 7
♦ 10 8 6 5
♣ A 6

SOUTH
♠ K 5 4 3
♥ K J 9 6 5 3
♦ K 3
♣ 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 4 ♠
5 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

We are living in a world where material possessions have become the measure of success. As a result, most of us are reluctant to relinquish an asset, at times with disastrous consequences.

East's full-blown preempt made life difficult for North-South. Despite the poor quality of the long suit, South felt compelled to act. West introduced spades to announce values there on the way to a five club sacrifice, and North, with such good heart support, realized

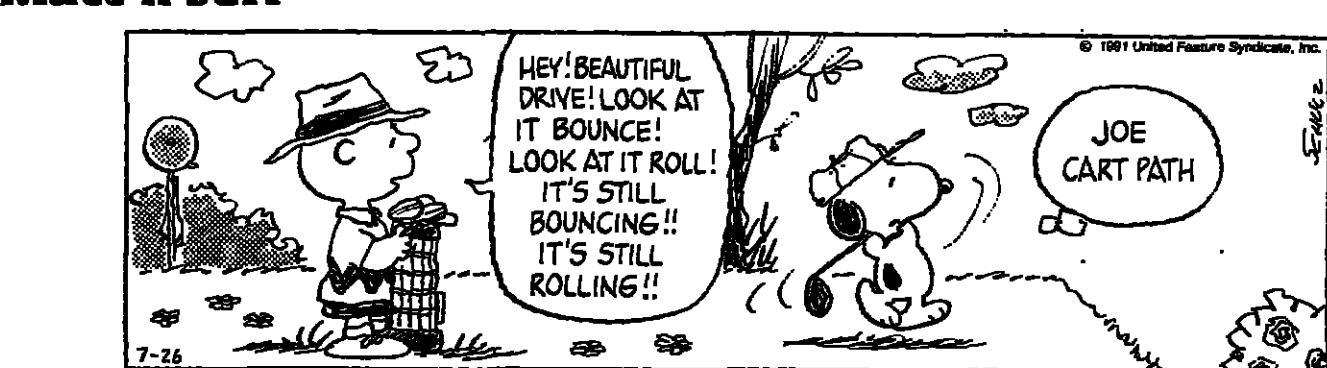
South would be unable to bid on because of poor suit quality. So North competed with five hearts, despite a minimum opening bid.

West led the ace of clubs and East probably should have jettisoned the king in an attempt to get partner to shift to a spade. But when East encouraged, West continued with clubs, declarer ruffing.

Not having the advantage of seeing through the backs of the cards, declarer drew two rounds of trumps, East discarding a club on the second. Next came four rounds of diamonds, on which declarer shuffled two spades, as East pitched another club. A spade was led from dummy and, when East produced the queen, declarer knew enough about the hand to follow low. The defenders were dead as decoy birds. West could not overtake without setting up declarer's king as the fulfilling trick, yet if East were left on lead, the forced club return would allow declarer to discard the king of spades while ruffing in dummy.

East should have foreseen the end position and avoided the trap. On the second trump East should have parted with one of his assets—the queen of spades. Now there would have been no way for declarer to avert the loss of two spade tricks for own one.

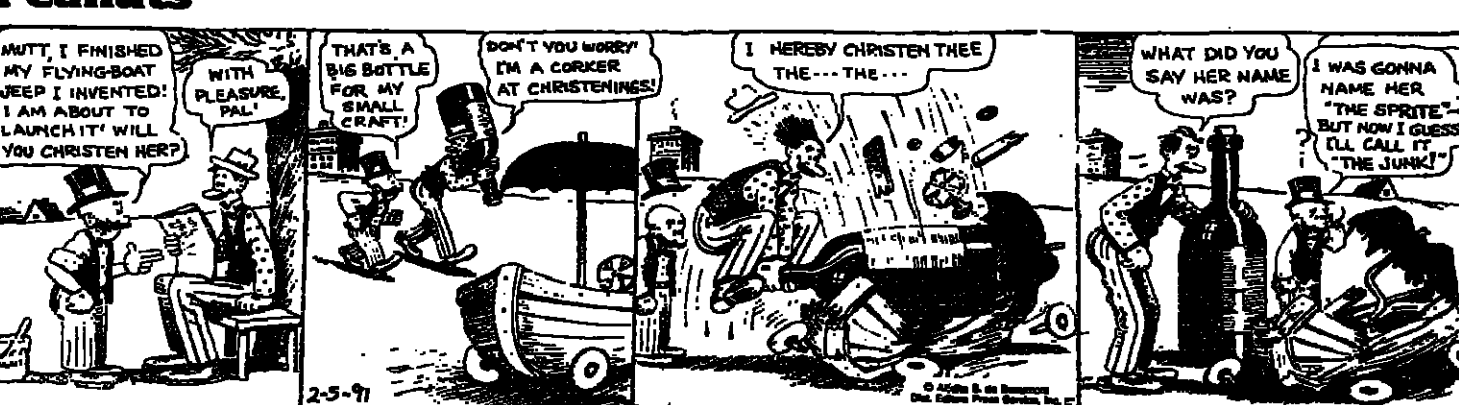
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Avoid arguments and accidents by using special care and caution as a result of your day to day activities. You could be subject to a misunderstanding that isn't really the fault of any one.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Much quiet reflection, study and delving into whatever is mysterious to you can bring very productive results so you know to act in the future.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There are quite a number of friends and partners who would like to have your ideas now or who want to join in activities of importance to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Do your assignment in much a fashion that it is approved by one who has considerable power over your affairs to be able to assist you greatly.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your day to show you are the one who does understand and recognize that a new attitude is necessary so that your dreams can come true.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you certainly can gain the good will of others about by the time you take out to please an associate who has the power to make life better.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You need for doing your project in such a fashion that you have some extra money is fine so be as

practical as possible and do it in a new way.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your day to enjoy yourself at the things you like to do the most and be sure you tell all allies in detail the plan that you have thought out.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take some time to perfect that interest that means so very much to you and let those fascinating charms you like to be with you to be more aware of their respect.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Busy yourself at all your usual outlets now and make them operate as they have never done before by putting something your own family has suggested.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Friends and regular associates are willing to go along now with what you have to suggest so think it out very carefully and then go ahead.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Money, money matters occupy your attention right now so do those things that bring you more of this world's goods, than you can help others.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind that does necessitate some personal way to gain the good will of social contacts is excellent so get out and state what you want.

Your birth stone = Hope

World Resources - Dajani & Co. Inc.
Jewellers - Gerts

Address: P.O. Box 1000
Amman, Amman Hotel, 6th floor

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

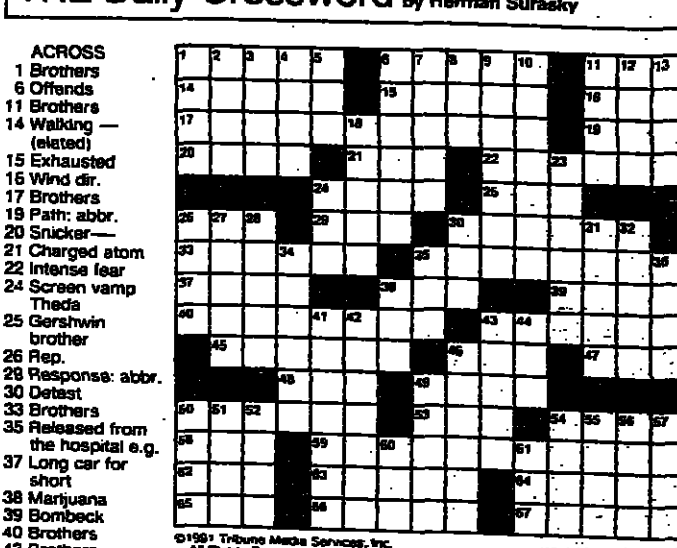
DUTIA
SAYGS
GLUTE
HELSIG



Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: WHILE OWING DRUDGE SPORTY
Answer: Why the speaker at the banquet needed no introduction—HE DIDN'T SHOW UP

THE Daily Crossword by Herman Surrasky



ACROSS
1 Brothers
6 Offends
11 Brothers
14 Waking (eleated)
15 Exhausted
16 Wind dir.
17 Brothers
19 Path: abbr.
20 Snicker
21 Charged from
22 Intense fear
24 Screen vamp
25 Theads
26 Gershwin brother
26 Rep.
28 Response: abbr.
30 Dearest
31 Long car for short
38 Marijuana
39 Bombcock
40 Brothers
43 Brothers
45 Comedian Bob formality
46 Nasser's union: abbr.
47 Sounds of hesitation
48 Biblical son
49 Signs
50 Road cover
51 Once called
54 — Harri
58 Kimono sash
59 Brothers
63 Fish-eating birds
64 Mountain nymph
65 Turk. headscarf
66 Bowling score
67 Additional

DOWN
1 Eng. youth gang
2 Privy to
3 Shoestring
4 Stone: suff.
5 Angel's delight
6 Actor Lee
7 Miss Massey
8 Aviate
9 Fabrication
10 Show disdain for
11 Deborah or Walter
12 Division word
13 do-well
16 Cheerful
18 Dan
24 Sorcerer word
26 Spring roots
27 Brothers
28 Indonesian island
30 Tennis term
31 Lens of song
32 Kind of wheat
34 NYC
35 Hippo
36 Cereal spikes
38 Prior to: pref.
41 Lament and Grief
42 Outer layer of fruit
43 Arouse
44 — Postice
46 Discomfort
48 City or sanctuary
49 — wringing
50 Sore nose
51 Rose lover
52 Brothers
53 Help in
55 Help in
56 — wringing
57 — wringing
58 Sign of sorrow
59 — wringing
60 One million
61 Deer

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 19/8/1991	Tokyo Close Date: 20/8/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6285	1.6287
Deutsche Mark	1.8235	1.8233
Swiss Franc	1.5532	1.5530
French Franc	6.1745	6.1470
Japanese Yen	138.10	138.25
European Currency Unit	1.1275	1.1337

USD Per ECU

European Opening at 1:00 A.M. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.5e	5.67
Sterling Pound	11.60	10.81	10.50	10.43
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.16	9.31	9.43
Swiss Franc	7.93	7.87	7.87	7.75
French Franc	9.25	9.45	9.50	9.56
Japanese Yen	7.33	7.14	6.91	6.45
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.93	10.06	10.06

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	358.90	6.40	Silver	4.25	.095

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 20/8/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.695	.695
Sterling Pound	1.1260	1.1316
Deutsche Mark	.3794	.3813
Swiss Franc	.4451	.4473
French Franc	.1119	.1123
Japanese Yen	.0011	.0012
Dutch Guilder	.3365	.3385
Swedish Krona	.1047	.1052
Italian Lira	.0510	.0513
Belgian Franc	.01851	.01860

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6000	1.6100
Lebanese Lira	.0775	.0785
Saudi Riyal	.1845	.1850
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1878	.1886
Egyptian Pound	.2050	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7550	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1675	.1686
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4000	1.4200

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	18/8/1991 Close	19/8/1991 Close
All-Share	108.56	108.08
Banking Sector	102.02	101.15
Insurance Sector	117.66	117.79
Industry Sector	115.44	115.56
Services Sector	127.54	126.64

Date: 20/8/1991

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6352/62	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1427/32	Canadian dollar
	1.8080/90	Deutsche marks
	2.0373/85	Dutch guilders
	1.5500/10	Swiss francs
	37.15/19	Belgian francs
	6.1300/50	French francs
	1348/1349	Italian lire
	137.40/50	Japanese yen
	6.5630/80	Swedish crowns
	7.0550/6000	Norwegian crowns
	6.9750/9800	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	358.00/358.50	U.S. dollars

World Bank drops fund for Soviets

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 155-nation World Bank has dropped a proposal to create a \$30 million fund for technical aid to the Soviet Union, a spokesman said.

Bank officials decided not to have the bank's 22-member board vote on the proposal at a meeting Tuesday, spokesman Peter Riddleberger said. He would not say whether bank President Barber Conable or the board was responsible for the decision.

"I don't think they want to talk about helping the Soviets at this point," Mr. Riddleberger said. "It's moot now."

The aid proposal grew out of the Soviet Union's application to join the bank and its sister organization, the International Monetary Fund. At the insistence of the United States, leading governments decided only to consider the Soviets for a special associate status that would not have entitled them to borrow money.

Before considering that, the World Bank's management proposed the two-year technical aid fund. A study by the bank and IMF concluded that the bank was well-suited to advise the Soviets on energy, farming and banking.

While it is the world's largest oil producer, the Soviet Union has seen production and exports drop off sharply in recent years.

Though Russia was once a major food exporter, the Soviets have been depending on imports subsidised by the United States and western Europe. Its banking system, designed for state ownership of production, would require fundamental changes if the Soviets were to adopt a market economy.

Some reports said the trust fund also would have been available to help the Soviets with such matters as establishing free-market prices and selling off state-owned industries.

Mr. Riddleberger said the money for the trust fund was to come from the bank's capital. That fund is made up of contributions from member governments and the bank's own earnings. The United States is the biggest single contributor.

Soviet upheaval likely to keep oil prices up

SINGAPORE (R) — Fears that a general strike could throttle oil exports from the Soviet Union, the world's largest producer, is expected to further drive up prices, which have already risen more than a dollar a barrel since the ousting of Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, Far East oil experts said Tuesday.

"People fear a complete strike in the Urals oil fields and riots in Moscow," said one Singapore-based trader for a U.S. investment house.

"The general feeling is that the market's up a dollar since yesterday and only Gorbachev's reinstatement will bring it down again," he pointed out.

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin Monday denounced Vice President Gennady Yanayev's removal of Mr. Gorbachev and called for a general strike and mass civil disobedience.

Britain's internationally-traded Brent blend crude oil was quoted in Asia Tuesday morning at \$20.65 a barrel for cargoes loading in October, up from \$19.45 in New York on Friday.

Oil experts also say the political turmoil in the Soviet Union since Monday's coup by communist hardliners will further reduce already-declining oil output.

Western oil companies had been ready to give technical aid to the Soviet Union to help stem the fall in output, but with Mr. Gorbachev out and hardline communists in power that aid will be withdrawn, they said.

"Western countries wanted to help just because Mr. Gorbachev was in control of the country, but if he's not there this will stop," said Masaru Kai of Nippon Oil's Petroleum Supply Department in Tokyo.

"It can now foresee no maintenance work, no parts, and sharper and faster decrease in production," he added.

Soviet oil production fell to 10.75 million barrels per day (b/d) in the first half of 1991 from 11.9 million a year earlier. Exports at 2.8 million b/d in the second quarter were down a fifth on last year, according to statistics from the International Energy Agency, the West's energy watchdog.

"People are not going to go in there now with all the latest technology," said the U.S. invest-

ment house trader. "The Soviet oil industry is heading back into the dark ages."

Western experts attribute the falling output to deteriorating infrastructure, backward technology, poor management and lack of production incentives.

But a Soviet energy expert warned earlier this year that internal political and social factors were also underestimated.

"Indeed, the producing oil fields are badly watered and depleted and at least a third of the oil pipelines need replacing," Eugene Khartukov, chief of the world energy analysis and forecasting group in Moscow, told an oil conference here in May.

"But who really cares when there are no slightest stimuli to work — let alone work better — and ever worsening working and living conditions tempt Soviet oilmen to go on strike?" he asked.

Mr. Khartukov said if the political economic and social reforms stopped, indigenous oil production would fall rapidly to less than nine million b/d by the year 2000, consumption would rise to 11 million b/d and net oil exports would dry up by 1995.

The impact of rapidly falling Soviet exports on world oil prices depends on how much of a shortfall can be made up by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), oil industry experts said.

Hideo Itoh, operating officer of Mitsui and Co.'s energy group in Tokyo, said OPEC could probably produce up to 25 million b/d compared with July's actual output level of 23.27 million.

He said the average price of OPEC's "basket" of crude would range between \$21 and \$23 in the fourth quarter of the year when demand is traditionally higher due to winter stockbuilding. The OPEC basket was \$18.22 last week, according to OPEC's official news agency.

Mr. Kai predicted prices in the \$19 to \$20 range, although he did not think OPEC could supply more than 24 million b/d in the fourth quarter.

"The Soviet Union needs to export to get hard currency," Mr. Kai said. He also said that worldwide stocks would increase in the second and third quarters of this year, which would absorb any additional demand in the fourth quarter.

In the short term, however, oil markets are expected to remain jittery.

"Civil unrest in the main concern," said the U.S. trader. "The market's going to be very volatile from here."

Mexico's foreign debt drops

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's private sector foreign debt increased \$1.19 billion to 7.44 billion in the first half of 1991, but was compensated by a fall in the huge public sector debt, the finance ministry has said.

Despite a rise in foreign borrowing, principal payments helped push the total public sector debt down \$1.34 billion to \$7.43 billion, a statement from the ministry said.

The figures were released in a half-yearly report to Mexico's congress. The statement said interest and principal payments in the first six months reached \$3.92 billion.

The finance ministry said the figures reflected the benefits of the renegotiation of the Brady Plan in February 1990. At the time, Mexico's debt — the second highest in the developing world — stood at around \$100 billion.

"The results of the debt renegotiation have crystallised in a reduction of the financial burden through reduced transfers abroad and the diminishing of the accumulated historic value of the debt," the statement said.

Overthrow of Gorbachev may hurt world economy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

The ouster of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev raises the risk of a renewed U.S. recession and lessens the chances of a global economic upswing next year, economists said Monday.

They voiced fears that the uncertainty engendered by the crisis could undermine consumer and corporate confidence in the industrial world and hurt the global economy.

"It's going to delay the recovery in the United States," which has the world's biggest economy, said David Jones, chief economist at Aubrey G. Lanston Co. "and world economic growth could be curtailed."

On the face of it, the ouster of Mr. Gorbachev by hardliners should not have much of an impact on the global economy. Trade between the Soviet Union and the industrial world is minimal.

"They might as well be on Mars," said William Stirling, international economist at Merrill Lynch Co.

But Mr. Stirling and other economists said the aftershocks of the crisis could threaten the world economy. The Soviet Union is a major oil exporter and political chaos there could severely disrupt shipments to the rest of the world.

Much depends on how long the crisis lasts and how much it affects consumer and business confidence. If, as Mr. Jones expects, it proves prolonged, that would be bad news for the world economy.

"Consumer and business confidence are the keys to how our economy will respond to the Soviet events," said John Silvia of Kemper Financial Services Inc.

The turmoil sent U.S. interest rates tumbling Monday and could strengthen the inclination of the Federal Reserve (Fed), the U.S. central bank, to push official rates lower still, economists said. The Fed was already on the road to lowering interest rates because of weak money supply growth, a sluggish economy and low inflation.

To help cushion the world economy from the impact of the Soviet crisis, other central banks, such as Japan's, are likely to cut interest rates in the coming weeks.

to boost demand, economists said.

Stock prices collapsed around the world on investor fears of everything from civil strife in one of the world's nuclear powers to a return of the cold war. The crash could discourage companies from spending money on new factories and equipment by making it harder for them to raise funds. It might also put a crimp in spending by consumers.

A prolonged stalemate in the Soviet Union is likely to keep the dollar high as investors put their money into the currency of the world's leading military superpower. That could hurt U.S. exports, one of the few bright spots for the American economy, analysts said.

But Germany will be the country hardest hit by the financial fallout. Mr. Jones said Germany faces inflation from higher oil prices and a weak currency and slower growth because of cutbacks in investment and other spending.

Other economists said that turmoil in the Soviet Union could endanger the world economy's fragile recovery by pushing up interest rates.

But Mr. Gorbachev's ouster is not immediately perceived as being a big threat to the world economy.

"The world economy is in a very fragile state in terms of where it is in the cycle. It's coming out of recession very slowly," Leo Doyle, an economist with the London investment firm Kleinwort Greaveson Securities, said Monday.

"This kind of thing we expect to be a small factor but it could be the straw that broke the camel's back and put the economy back into recession in 1992. In that respect, it's important."

World economic growth could be crimped by half a percentage point by the latest developments, said Paul Jackson, a European economist with the investment firm Morgan Stanley International in London.

Before Monday's coup, Morgan Stanley was predicting that the U.S. economy would shrink by half a percentage point this year and grow 3.4 per cent next year. Europe was to grow 1.1 per cent this year and 1.6 per cent in 1992, and Japan to grow 3.3 per cent and 3.7 per cent, it said.

Kevin Darlington, an economist with UBS Phillips and Drew, was not convinced.

"We're taking the view that in fact as things stand, the implication could be quite mild, in fact imperceptible," he said.

Moves in the dollar and commodities prices have not been big enough to have an impact, and the Soviet Union is a closed economy on which other countries depend little for trade, he said.

In this case, the flight to the dollar as a safe haven investment could bring an increase in European interest rates, or at least keep them high longer than expected, Mr. Jackson said.

The dollar soared against other major currencies Monday, particularly against the German mark which was hurt by Germany's proximity to the Soviet Union.

Weakness in the mark will put pressure on Germany to raise interest rates again to fight inflation, and that could slow European economic growth. Germany, already pressured by the credit demands of German unification, raised its interest rates only last week.

A German hike also would make it difficult for Japan to cut its interest rates, Mr. Jackson said.

Although he United States wouldn't mind a strong dollar as much as Germany would, it still likely would be concerned that further dollar strength would hurt U.S. exports by making them more expensive.

Another possible problem is that the new Soviet regime might be less likely to reduce defence spending, making other countries reluctant to cut their military budgets, Mr. Jackson said.

That would mean bigger budget deficits, and higher interest rates, he said.

"Essentially, the peace dividend may have disappeared," Mr. Jackson said.

Although Mr. Doyle said he didn't expect Mr. Gorbachev's ouster to affect consumer confidence and thus spending generally, he said company investment may be hit, and that too would be bad for the world economy.

Dollar falls and shares win back part of Monday's losses

LONDON (R) — The dollar fell

in nervous trading up to the European midsession Tuesday while share markets regained part of Monday's heavy losses.

All eyes on financial markets were trained on Moscow after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's removal from power Monday had boosted the dollar as a safe haven currency and caused a panic selloff in share prices around the world.

At one point Tuesday, market nerves sent the dollar into a near three-pennig fall after a news agency report that Mr. Gorbachev had been returned to the Kremlin. But the U.S. currency recovered when the report was corrected.

Traders said share price gains were fragile and markets remained vulnerable to Soviet moves.

"It's a black hole — no one knows what's going to happen," said broker Ross Rowbury at Sanyo Securities Co. in Tokyo.

Currency dealers shunned dealing screens for television screens updating events in the Soviet Union, with demonstrations in Moscow and Leningrad. The dollar traded at 1.7963 marks and 137.12 yen at 1:30 GMT, after closing in London Monday at 1.8185 and 138.25. It earlier hit a low in Europe of 1.7800 marks.

The mark has been hit hard by the Soviet changes because of

Germany's proximity to the

Soviet Union and the close economic ties between the two nations. But traders said Monday's flight-to-safety rally in the dollar had been overdone.

"Safe-haven dollar buying looks to have waned. But with Soviet fears at hand, the market is still looking for a chance to sell

marks down further," said Michiko Kawai, chief customer dealer at Security Pacific National Bank in Tokyo.

Gold fell \$1.85 to \$358.55 an ounce, shedding most of the previous day's gains after market speculation that the Soviet Union might sell bullion to raise hard currency.

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Estonia commanders 'reluctant' to take orders from Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Local leaders in the Estonian capital Tallinn were quoted as saying Tuesday that Soviet troops based in the city have indicated they would not use force if ordered to do so by the new government in Moscow.

An editor with the official Estonian News Agency (ETA) said by telephone from Tallinn that about 100 light tanks in three columns entered the city to reinforce local barracks and the city's giant Dviglet defence plant.

But Tarmo Tannerik said that before moving in tank commanders told the mayor of Tallinn and the head of its city council they were not prepared to take part in civil conflict.

He said the tank commander and the head of the city garrison had said they were "not interested" in confronting civilians. Similar assurances were given to the city's mayor late Monday, he said.

The report was a further sign of possible uncertainty within the military over Monday's move to overthrow President Mikhail Gorbachev and suggested the new Kremlin leaders could not count on the army's unquestioning support.

Already, several units in Moscow have "defected" to back Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

now the main focus of opposition to the takeover.

Tallinn City Council chairman Andres Kork handed the soldiers copies of appeals from Mr. Yeltsin denouncing the emergency committee that overthrew Mr. Gorbachev and calling for a general strike.

"They greedily grabbed copies from my hand," Mr. Kork was quoted as saying. "The soldiers knew nothing about what was happening."

Estonian traffic police escorted the tank columns into the Tondi and Kopli barracks and onto the enormous grounds of the Dviglet plant, powerbase of pro-Moscow Russian nationalists.

A rally denouncing the new Moscow authorities, called by the pro-independence Popular Front, has been scheduled for Tuesday afternoon in Tallinn. Organisers have said they expect a big turnout from across the republic.

2 wounded in Riga

Meanwhile, Soviet soldiers seized control of Latvian Broadcast Studios and the Central Telephone Exchange Tuesday, as coup leaders continued to crack down on the independence-minded Baltic Republics.

One man driving a mini-van was reported shot and killed by

soldiers late Monday. He was the first reported casualty of Monday's coup that toppled Mikhail Gorbachev and brought hardliners to power in the Kremlin.

On Monday, a Soviet military commander declared himself de facto ruler of the three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — and Soviet troops forced their way into TV and radio stations, beating protesters. Soviet warships blocked the main harbour in Estonia.

The Baltic republics had been at the forefront of the independence movement in the Soviet Union, which Soviet hardliners have vigorously opposed. The coup against Mr. Gorbachev occurred one day before he was to sign the union treaty, which would have given more powers to the country's 15 republics.

The Press Department of Latvia's parliament reported Tuesday that the Soviet military occupied the Riga Broadcast Studio and the Central Telephone and Telegram Exchange just before 5 a.m. (0200 GMT).

The news agency of the neighbouring Estonian Republic said the military operation began with shooting in the square outside the broadcast building and two radio employees were wounded.

The headquarters of the Peo-

ple's Front of Latvia, a grassroots political group fighting for the republic's independence, was seized by Soviet special forces, the Russian Information Agency reported from Riga.

More movements of Soviet armour were reported in and near the Baltics.

A column of more than 100 light armoured vehicles and trucks was reported to be on the move toward the Estonian capital of Tallinn early Tuesday.

News reports said Soviet tanks and armoured personnel carriers approached the Lithuanian parliament building in the capital Vilnius, but later withdrew.

In the Republic of Russia near the Baltic border, a column of 180 armoured vehicles was approaching Leningrad, the Soviet Union's second-largest city, according to the Russian Information Agency.

Faced with the overwhelming Soviet military power, elected officials of the small republics called for a campaign of nonviolent resistance.

"Civil disobedience and refusal to cooperate: This is our position," said Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis. "We should avoid confrontation with the military. Our weapon is our spirit."

Moscow leaders crack down hard on media

MOSCOW (AP) — The committee that overthrew President Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday shut down independent media and a regimen of censorship appeared to be going into effect at some state-owned news organisations.

But signs of resistance quickly surfaced. State journalists refused to print at least one censored newspaper. Journalists at the pro-reform weekly Moscow News and the dailies Moskovsky Komsomlets and Kuranty, forbidden from publishing at state-run printers, made computer print-outs and photocopies to be sold, passed out free and pasted to walls.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) and the evening news programme "Vremya" were allowed to carry Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's appeal for a general strike. One editor said this indicated the hardliners might be trying to keep open channels of communication.

The eight-member committee that ousted Mr. Gorbachev announced in a decree that it had established control of the country's mass media and was putting it under its jurisdiction.

KGB agents silenced the pro-reform Moscow Echo Radio, and broadcasts of pro-Yeltsin Russian Television were cut off. In the Baltics, troops occupied and closed Lithuanian and Latvian

Television.

In Moscow, workers at a state-run printing plant went on strike after the editorial board of the government daily Izvestia (news) refused to publish Mr. Yeltsin's appeal to resist the state committee for the state of emergency.

Sergei Chelkin, assistant to the editor-in-chief of the evening newspaper, said plant workers "weren't in agreement with the contents of the paper."

Andrei Poleschuk, an editor at Nezavisimaya Gazeta (Independent Newspaper), said proofs of Tuesday's issue, with four pages of coup coverage, were sent to the Izvestia printing house, where his paper is usually printed. When Izvestia's new editor-in-chief, N. Yefimov, left the publishing house after vainly trying to persuade the printers to produce Izvestia without the Yeltsin appeal, the printers began working instead on Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Poleschuk said.

But the printers ceased work on Nezavisimaya Gazeta as well after the Emergency Committee issued a decree forbidding publication of most newspapers, Mr. Poleschuk said.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta was trying to make a private printing to distribute in the streets, Mr. Poleschuk said. Paris-Match agreed to print the four pages in the French translation in France.

Gorbachev ouster prompts fear and tears in U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev's fall from power Monday stunned the country that liked him most — the United States.

Americans from every walk of life said they were afraid the new age of hope and peace that the Soviet president ushered in was now over and that the cold war would return.

Soviet emigres clustered in the tens of thousands in New York's "Little Odessa" district wept when they heard the news. One woman said her heart had pounded so hard, she could not get up from her bed. Others said they feared for the safety of relatives still in the Soviet Union.

Longtime Soviet dissident Yuri Orlov, who spent almost a decade in prison or in exile for his beliefs, said he thought a civil war was about to begin in the nation he loved.

As the electronic news flashed across New York's One Times Square building describing Mr. Gorbachev's fall, declaring "world taken by surprise" people talked of the chances for war.

The "Gorbymania" that once swept the United States seemed long ago and far away as powerful winds from the season's first hurricane sent umbrellas flying through Times Square. During a 1987 New York visit Mr. Gorbachev had walked in triumph through the square.

Carlton Pressley, a mailman, said he had awakened to hear the news on television and added, "there's gonna be a war. We're gonna have problems for sure. We were doing so good and all of a sudden... boom. We're in the middle of it again."

Marco Hamman, a chef, said: "I don't even want to think about it. We just don't have any idea what's going to happen now."

Brian Quattrini, a hotel bellman, said: "I couldn't believe it

when I saw it in the paper. It's scary. But I got to work and the guys are just talking sports. Hey, it's Monday morning."

Soviet experts were divided on whether the military-backed coup could succeed and the tiny American Communist Party, which once hailed Mr. Gorbachev as communism's saviour, said it could not comment on what was an internal Soviet matter.

A spokeswoman for Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Soviet writer, said he was watching the situation carefully but would have no immediate statement.

Richard Pipes, a Harvard University Soviet scholar and a former national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan, called the coup long expected but said it was far from clear whether it would succeed.

Mr. Pipes called it the last gasp of Soviet communist diehards faced with losing power in free elections a year from now and likened it to a Third World military coup.

"The new government will have to deal with hundreds of thousands of people protesting and not a few editors and liberals. They will face a nationwide rebellion. It could be the start of a civil war if the population resists."

Mr. Orlov, one of the most famous Soviet dissidents living in the United States, said, "you can either go back to Stalinism or jump to capitalism. There is no intermediate way. The new government will fail in their economic attempts but that is not the main point. They have begun a civil war in Russia. It is the beginning of a longtime civil war."

Mr. Orlov said he saw Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin as democracy's best hope but warned that the new government will seek to restrict its access to mass media.

Soviet putsch may finally draw reformers together

MOSCOW (AP) — Reformers who weakened their own cause with endless bickering over how to change the Soviet Union say the coup that ousted Mikhail Gorbachev may finally draw them together.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the focal point for the reform movement, called for a general strike beginning Tuesday to protest the move by Communist Party and military hardliners that ousted Mr. Gorbachev.

Coal miners began walking off their jobs after midnight in response to Mr. Yeltsin's call.

On Monday, reformers as diverse as former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Yelena Bonner, the widow of Andrei Sakharov, closed ranks with Yeltsin. Reformers acknowledged that their inability to agree among themselves has weakened their cause.

Oleg Kalugin, a former top KGB official who joined the reformers last year, said the coup "can be blamed not only on the conservatives. The Democrats, instead of ousting the old structures, were setting accounts with each other."

Mr. Shevardnadze, who remained loyal to Mr. Gorbachev long after Mr. Yeltsin had ousted him, said he and other reform-minded leaders would coordinate their actions with Mr. Yeltsin.

"We must arouse a response," he said. "We have to appeal directly to the people. We must

appeal to all democrats in the country."

Dozens of political parties and movements sprang up as Gorbachev eased control of Soviet society. But they splintered badly because of personality clashes and squabbling over tactics and policies, largely repeating the errors of the much larger moderate forces that allowed Lenin's tightly disciplined Bolsheviks to seize power in 1917.

Deep personal and political differences between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Gorbachev were chief reasons for the split among reformers. After their initial enthusiasm over Mr. Gorbachev, most eventually sided with Mr. Yeltsin because Mr. Gorbachev held back on fundamental changes.

Earlier this year, Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin put aside their differences and had been ready to sign a treaty outlining new relations between Moscow and republics eager to assume more autonomy. But by that time, Mr. Gorbachev was nearly alone, trying to hold the eroding centre of the Communist Party.

On Monday, Yeltsin aides reported Mr. Gorbachev was under arrest, and a group of hardline Communists, including the defence minister, KGB chief and interior minister, assumed power.

Reformers said they could not afford to continue making the same mistakes, and that a united opposition would try to stir Soviet citizens to reject the coup.

Thousands keep vigil to protect Russian parliament, Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AP) — A baby-faced Russian soldier reclining atop his tank turned down a cigarette early Tuesday but accepted a carton of milk while keeping vigil with demonstrators protecting the Russian parliament building.

The white marble building, nicknamed the "Russian white house," became a focus of attention in the coup because it houses Russian President Boris Yeltsin's office.

Mr. Yeltsin, a widely popular reformer, has called on Soviets to strike and resist the coup by hardline military and Communist leaders. Many people feared that Soviet soldiers would move against him.

Thousands of people encircled the parliament building after tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks loaded with soldiers swarmed the Soviet capital Monday to enforce the ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

After most of the armour left late in the day, 10 loyalist tanks from the elite Taman Battalion rumbled up to the building, becoming the first military units to come over to Mr. Yeltsin's side.

They were joined by 400 to 500 paratroopers from the Ryazan Division, dressed in camouflage and carrying guns, who drove up in about 30 armoured vehicles.

A major from the Taman Battalion said his entire group of 96 people decided to defend Mr. Yeltsin.

"We will do nothing against the law. We are for the people," he said.

But a paratrooper standing in front of a tank had a different story.

"It wasn't our personal desire

to come here," he said. "Our personal wishes don't come into it. In the military, as a rule,

senior officials give orders to their inferiors."

All of the soldiers were reluctant to identify themselves.

Stas, a 19-year-old, looked nonchalant as he sat high atop a tank, one in a row parked along one side of the parliament building.

"We are here to bring about justice, to do what the people want, to do what's best for the people," he said.

Another soldier said he was there only because he had been drafted. Asked if he was prepared to shoot, he replied: "A soldier won't shoot at another soldier, and a soldier won't shoot at the people."

Demonstrators greeted their reinforcements with cheers and applause. Many stayed with the battalion all night.

"Tanks were sent to Moscow not to trample Boris Yeltsin — you wouldn't need a tank to trample just him — but to trample us, the people," said an angry man standing in front of a tank.

"I'm not scared because I know that it won't get worse than it is," he said.

At one point, demonstrators offered the soldiers blue-and-white cartons of milk. Several soldiers accepted, preferring them to cigarettes.

Playing guitars and singing, teenagers and old people waited together nervously to see if other Soviet troops would show up. Several tables of provisions offering hard bread, sugar cubes, frozen fish and tinned seaweed had been set up, and cups of tea were passed back and forth.

Computer copies of newspaper

Shevardnadze warns of civil war and return of cold war

MOSCOW (R) — Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze warned Moscow crowds Tuesday that the ouster of President Mikhail Gorbachev could lead to civil war and the return of the cold war.

In an emotional speech outside Boris Yeltsin's Russian Parliament building Mr. Shevardnadze said Monday's seizure of power by Communist hardliners would not succeed.

"What is a right-wing coup?" He asked a crowd of tens of thousands of people. "It is the beginning of civil war. It is the end of peaceful coexistence and the start of a new cold war, a new arms race."

Mr. Shevardnadze, co-architect of Mr. Gorbachev's perestroika reforms, played a major role in ending the cold war tensions and allowing the removal of Communist rule in Eastern Europe.

Mr. Shevardnadze resigned

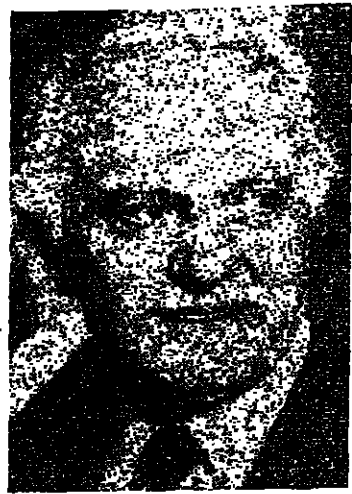
suddenly last December, warning of the dangers of a hardline coup. "Unfortunately this has happened. But dictatorship will not prevail," he said Tuesday to rapturous applause.

The silver-haired Georgian emerged dramatically from the crowd flanked by an Omon elite police escort in camouflage uniforms and their distinctive black berets.

He appeared on the balcony to shouts of "Shevardnadze, Shevardnadze" and quickly attacked the Emergency Committee of eight communist hardliners which overthrew Gorbachev.

"These politicians, adventurers, careerists... reactionaries of all sorts will not prevail," he said. "We have many questions to put to this junta. The first is 'where is the president?' In no civilised country does this happen," he said.

Mr. Shevardnadze said Mr.



Eduard Shevardnadze

Yeltsin, who has declared the takeover illegal, had the support of all 15 Soviet republics. "Our officers and soldiers will not shoot at their own people," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

Soviet youth finally rouses itself and mans the barricades

MOSCOW (R) — The overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev has finally inspired the traditionally meek Soviet youth to take to the streets to defend its future.

While Western students and young people are often at the forefront of major protests, their Soviet counterparts have until now preferred to keep their heads down and let their parents cushion life's hard knocks.

But Mr. Gorbachev's dismissal Monday by an eight-man hardline Emergency Committee has acted as a sudden catalyst.

Young people are now playing a major role in demonstrations outside the Russian Federation parliament and for the first time are outnumbering protesters from older generations.

"We young people have had enough. The appointment of those eight was the final straw. They're so bad they should be shot," growled 24-year-old student Marina Katayeva, sitting with friends round a big bonfire outside the parliament building.

"Young people have taken a long time to get going but now we

know just what's happening. Those six years of perestroika were not in vain," she said as dawn broke Tuesday.

A few hundred metres away a group of youths were organising a blockade of Kalinin Avenue, one of Moscow's main thoroughfares.

"We're protecting the parliament from possible attack. It's not normal for a civilised country but we're reduced to this," said one young man, trying to persuade bus and truck drivers to park their vehicles across the six-lane avenue.

Cries of "well done, lad" echoed down the deserted avenue as a battered post office truck joined the swelling blockade.

"We must all stick together, otherwise we have no chance," said driver Nikolai Lapushkin, jumping down from his cab.

Those who ignored appeals to stop were roundly abused and jeered.

Some youths manning the barricades said they admired the deposed president, whose whereabouts are still uncertain.

"Despite all the economic failures, Mr. Gorbachev opened many doors for us international-

ly. All he achieved is now under threat," said 25-year-old sports club worker Misha Aksyonov.

"We are heading for disaster. These new rulers are not worthy of their posts. We now know we have to fight for our children's future," he said.

Older demonstrators declared themselves ecstatic over the new approach.

"Young people have been too quiet for too long, but they feel they are the victims of a gross injustice. I am all for their action," said 36-year-old shop worker Nina Mikhailovna.

"My son never had the slightest interest in politics but he is here today with the rest. That is how it should be."

Engineer Mikhail Sergeyev, 43, said the young were traditionally brought up to be indifferent to social problems and to follow state founder Vladimir Lenin's maxim that they should study hard.

"But the younger generations have no trust in this committee, which is a good sign. If they can breathe the air freely they won't blindly obey the Communists," he said.

Moldova condemns Gorbachev removal

BUCHAREST (R) — Bucharest Radio has quoted a leading official from neighbouring Soviet Moldova as condemning the ouster of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a coup.

"Gorbachev's removal was a coup d'etat, and the new Soviet leadership is illegal," the radio quoted Ion Hadirica, deputy chairman of the Moldova Republic's parliament as saying.

"We condemn the coup and will not permit its consequences to extend to the Moldova Republic," Mr. Hadirica said.

Mr. Hadirica made the statement to the Moldovan Radio and television, which were continuing

their broadcasts Monday, Radio Bucharest said.

The radio also quoted an "appeal to Romanians everywhere," issued by the opposition People's Front of Moldova, and denounced Mr. Gorbachev's removal.

"Brothers' there was a coup in Moscow today. Mr. Gorbachev has been removed and the power was seized by the military-industrial complex and Soviet repression bodies," the radio quoted the statement as saying.

"Reactionary forces are trying to end democratic reforms... we appeal to the whole Romanian nation... to denounce the dicta-

torship established in the Soviet Union" the statement said.

Two-thirds of Moldova's population are ethnic Romanians. The republic made Romanian its official language in 1989 and proclaimed its sovereignty.

It is one of six Soviet republics holding out against the Kremlin's new union treaty.

"Let us show our will to lead a free and independent life through public rallies," the Moldova People's Front said.

The front urged Romanian

leaders to protest officially to international bodies in the event that Moldova's nationalist leaders should be removed.

three major streets near the building by parking trucks and blue-and-white trolley buses.

A trolley bus that blocked a bridge had two flat tires and sat in the middle of the road.

Valery Lemzikov, a 27-year-old businessman, was demonstrating at the building to protect his way of life.

"If this so-called government stays in power, I will lose everything — my job, quiet life, and most importantly, my friends," he said.

"I'll try not to be just an observer, but to help the little soldiers who are too young to be thinking of what they are doing," he said. "They are being really courageous. They are prepared to face bullets and I'd like to help them somehow."

Young soldiers who seized the heart of Moscow Monday emerged from their tank turrets and personnel carriers to face the anger of their countrymen and their own doubts about what they had done.

"Why tanks?" Screamed a gray-haired woman, waving wildly as a column of tanks passed. "Tanks against whom? Boys, boys you are our children what are you doing? What do you want?"

Column after column of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks loaded with soldiers swarmed the Soviet capital to enforce the ouster of Mikhail Gorbachev by hardline leaders who included the heads of the military, internal security forces and the KGB.

Small bands of Muscovites built barricades of concrete blocks, iron bars, benches and parked buses to prevent the armour from passing. Defiant protesters demonstrating near the Moscow City Council and the

central Manezh Square planned to stay all that night.

But the crowds were many times smaller than political rallies have drawn in far less tense times.

U.S. TV footage showed a man pulling a can of fuel off the rack of a tank, and splashing it on the vehicle. But he was pulled away before he could light it. There were no reported casualties anywhere in Moscow, and the military clearly was in control.

At the Russian Supreme Soviet building, Mr. Yeltsin climbed onto an armoured vehicle to deliver a call for a general strike. The lieutenant colonel in charge of about 20 tanks ringing the building pledged he would not shoot at Mr. Yeltsin.

One of his tank commanders, 22-year-old Alexander Krytov, parked about 500 metres from the building, said he would move against the Russian parliament buildings if ordered to.

"But I won't go against the people," he said. "Actually, I have my doubts about the government that's taking over now."

He said several other tank commanders agreed with him.

Another tank crew, asked who they had come to save, said, "You... the people." But they asked to look at the text of the statement declaring a state of emergency.

They said they had been in their tanks since 1 a.m. and had not been allowed to leave until they had taken control of the city. Many of the soldiers appeared to be from the Central Asian Republics, and may have been chosen because they could be expected to have less sympathy for Muscovites.

In several places, the armoured vehicles backed away rather than risking a confrontation with the

people.

On Manezh Square, tanks chewed up pavement that had been laid for the visit of President George Bush less than a month earlier.

The mood of Soviets ranged from anger to resignation to a sprinkling of support for the military move.

The crowd on Manezh Square cheered when a speaker read part of a statement by Mr. Bush saying he would not recognise the new leadership.

But one young man, facing a row of soldiers ringing the square, said simply, "that's it. That's the end of democracy."

Twelve armoured vehicles drove away from the Kremlin with protesters who had climbed aboard still there, waving Russian flags.

"Down with Yarov," shouted one, referring to Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov.

Hundreds of Soviets rushed to the U.S. embassy to check on their applications to emigrate. "I regret every bad thing I ever said about him," said a 31-year-old man named Mikhail, of Mr. Gorbachev.

But a 29-year-old construction worker named Volodya said he supported replacement of Gorbachev.

"We're all sick of waiting in line for everything," he said.

Taxi driver Anatoly Khamnikov, 40, was confused.

"I don't know if he really resigned because of his health or why he did it," Mr. Khamnikov said. "Everything he began seemed to be good, but now you can't understand what's going on in the country — First there is a Russian president, then president of the country, everyone's a president but what they're actually doing for the people isn't clear."

COLUMN

'Nostradamus predicted Gorbachev's ouster'

ROME (R) — The overthrow of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev came as no surprise to an Italian writer who for months has said the 16th-century mystic Nostradamus predicted it would happen this summer. Renuccio Boscolo told a news conference in April that Mr. Gorbachev's fall was among hundreds of vaguely worded prophecies set down by the French physician and astrologer between 1555 and 1558, the Italian News Agency (AGI) said.

Boscolo said at the time that according to his interpretation of the rhyming quatrains,